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BULLETIN No. 6.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

SECTION OF FOREIGN MARKETS.

[Under the immediate supervision of the Secretary of Agriculture.]

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THE WORLD'S MARKETS

FOR

AMERICAN PRODUCTS.

BELGIUM.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1895.

VALUES OF FOREIGN COINS.

The following table is an estimate of the values of the standard coins of the principal nations, prepared by the Director of the Mint, under the provisions of the act of August 28, 1894, section 25, and contained in Circular No. 119 of the United States Treasury Department of October 1, 1895, and proclaimed by the Secretary of the Department to be the values of such coins in terms of the money of account of the United States, to be followed in estimating the value of all foreign merchandise exported to the United States on or after October 1, 1895, expressed in any of such metallic currencies:

Country.	Standard.	Monetary unit.	U. S. gold value.	Coins.
Argentina	Gold and silver.	Peso	$0.96,5	Gold: argentine ($4.82,4) and ½ argentine. Silver: peso and divisions.
Austria-Hungary	Gold	Crown	.20,3	Gold: former system—4 florins ($1.92,9), 8 florins ($3.85,8), ducat ($2.28,7), and 4 ducats ($9.15,8). Silver: 1 and 2 florins. Gold: present system—20 crowns ($4.05,2), 10 crowns ($2.02,6).
Belgium	Gold and silver.	Franc	.19,3	Gold: 10 and 20 francs. Silver: 5 francs.
Brazil	Gold	Milreis	.54,6	Gold: 5, 10, and 20 milreis. Silver: ½, 1, and 2 milreis.
British Possessions N. A. (except Newfoundland).	Gold	Dollar	1.00	
Central American States.	Silver	Peso	.48,6	Silver: peso and divisions.
Chile	Gold and silver.	Peso	.91,2	Gold: escudo ($1.82,4), doubloon ($4.561,1), and condor ($9.12,3). Silver: peso and divisions.
China	Silver	Tael { Shanghai	.71,8	
		Haikwan (customs)	.80,0	
		Tientsin	.76,2	
		Chefoo	.75,2	
Cuba	Gold and silver.	Peso	.92,6	Gold: doubloon ($5.01,7). Silver: peso.
Denmark	Gold	Crown	.26,8	Gold: 10 and 20 crowns.
Egypt	Gold	Pound (100 piasters).	4.94,3	Gold: pound (100 piasters), 5, 10, 20, and 50 piasters. Silver: 1, 2, 5, 10, and 20 piasters.
France	Gold and silver.	Franc	.19,3	Gold: 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 francs. Silver: 5 francs.
German Empire	Gold	Mark	.23,8	Gold: 5, 10, and 20 marks.
Great Britain	Gold	Pound sterling	4.86,6½	Gold: sovereign (pound sterling) and ½ sovereign.
Greece	Gold and silver.	Drachma	.19,3	Gold: 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 drachmas. Silver: 5 drachmas.
India	Silver	Rupee	.23,1	Gold: mohur ($7.10,5). Silver: rupee and divisions.
Italy	Gold and silver.	Lira	.19,3	Gold: 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 lire. Silver: 5 lire.
Japan	Gold and silver.*	Yen { Gold	.99,7	Gold: 1, 2, 5, 10, and 20 yen.
		Yen { Silver	.52,4	Silver: yen.
Mexico	Silver	Dollar	.52,8	Gold: dollar ($0.98,3), 2½, 5, 10, and 20 dollars. Silver: dollar (or peso) and divisions.
Netherlands	Gold and silver.	Florin	.40,2	Gold: 10 florins. Silver: ½, 1, and 2½ florins.
Norway	Gold	Crown	.26,8	Gold: 10 and 20 crowns.
Portugal	Gold	Milreis	1.08	Gold: 1, 2, 5, and 10 milreis.
Russia	Silver†	Ruble { Gold	.77,2	Gold: imperial ($7.71,8) and ½ imperial ($3.86).‡
		Ruble { Silver	.38,9	Silver: ¼, ½, and 1 ruble.
Spain	Gold and silver.	Peseta	.19,3	Gold: 25 pesetas. Silver: 5 pesetas.
Sweden	Gold	Crown	.26,8	Gold: 10 and 20 crowns.
Switzerland	Gold and silver.	Franc	.19,3	Gold: 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 francs. Silver: 5 francs.
Turkey	Gold	Piaster	.04,4	Gold: 25, 50, 100, 250, and 500 piasters.

* Gold the nominal standard. Silver practically the standard. † Silver the nominal standard. Paper the actual currency, the depreciation of which is measured by the gold standard. ‡ Coined since July 1, 1886. Old half imperial=$3.98,6.

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BELGIUM.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1895.

NOTE.—The consular report in this bulletin was received in answer to the circular of inquiry sent out by the Department of Agriculture through the Secretary of State, and which is printed in Bulletin No. 1 of this series. This bulletin, the sixth of the series, treats of Belgium. It differs from the preceding numbers in that the tables of imports of agricultural and other products, in most cases, are embodied in the elaborate report of our consular representative at Ghent, and they have been carefully compared and made to agree with the official statistics. Some tables not in the original have been added in order to make the report more complete. Reports from the United States consuls at Liege and Brussels were received in answer to the circular of the Department, but as they consisted entirely of tables which are contained in the report from Ghent they have not been utilized.

The publications of the Section of Foreign Markets heretofore issued consist of the following:

Bulletin No. 1.—Great Britain and Ireland.
Bulletin No. 2.—The German Empire.
Bulletin No. 3.—France.
Bulletin No. 4.—Canada.
Bulletin No. 5.—Netherlands.
Circular No. 1.—Peaches and Other Fruits in England.
Circular No. 2.—American Dried Apples in the German Empire.
Circular No. 3.—Imports and Exports for 1893 and 1894.
Circular No. 4.—An Example for American Farmers and Dairymen.
Circular No. 5.—Treaty of China and Japan.
Circular No. 6.—Imports and Exports, 1893, 1894, and 1895.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *November 30, 1895.*

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THE WORLD'S MARKETS FOR AMERICAN PRODUCTS.

BELGIUM.

The Kingdom of Belgium is a portion of ancient Gaul, and is now one of the smaller of the European States. It became an independent State by a provisional government established in consequence of a revolution which broke out at Brussels on August 25, 1830, and which resulted in its separation from the Netherlands. On June 4, 1831, a national congress elected Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg King of the Belgians, and he ascended the throne July 21, 1831. By the treaty of London, November 15, 1831, the neutrality of Belgium was guaranteed by Austria, Russia, Great Britain, and Prussia, when all the States of Europe recognized the autonomy of the Kingdom.

GOVERNMENT.

According to the constitution of 1831, Belgium is "a constitutional, representative, and hereditary monarchy." The legislative power is vested in the King, the Senate, and the Chamber of Representatives. The royal succession is in the direct male line in the order of primogeniture. The King's person is declared sacred, and his ministers are held responsible for the acts of the Government. The King convokes, prorogues, and dissolves the Chambers, and in default of male heirs he may nominate his successor with the consent of the Legislature.

According to the law amending the constitution of 1893, the Senate consists of members elected for eight years, partly directly and partly indirectly. The number elected directly is proportioned to the population of each province, the minimum age of the electors being fixed at 30 years. Those elected indirectly are chosen by the provincial councils, two for each province with less than 500,000 inhabitants, three for each with a population from 500,000 to 1,000,000, and four for each with over 1,000,000 inhabitants. They must be 40 years of age, and those elected directly must pay not less than 1,200 francs, or $231.60 in direct taxes, or own real estate in Belgium yielding an income of 12,000 francs, or $2,316 per annum. There are seventy-six senators.

In provinces where the number eligible for the Senate would be less than 1 in 5,000 of the population, the list is extended to this proportion by admission of the most highly taxed.

The members of the Chamber of Representatives are elected directly by citizens over 25 years of age, domiciled for not less than one year in the same commune and not disqualified to vote. All revenue bills originate in this chamber. There are about 1,200,000 electors.

AREA AND POPULATION.

Belgium is comprised between 49° 30½′ and 51° 30′ north latitude and 2° 36′ and 6° 4′ east longitude (Greenwich). It is bounded on the north by The Netherlands, on the east by the Duchy of Luxemburg and Prussia (Rhenish), on the south by France, and on the west by the North Sea. Its greatest length from northwest to southeast is 172 miles, its greatest width 99 miles. Its frontiers are: On the north, the North Sea, 41.6 miles; on the north and east, Holland, 267.8 miles; on the east, Germany, 60.3 miles, and Luxemburg, 80.2 miles, and on the south and west, France, 381.5 miles. Total frontier, 831.4 miles. It is divided administratively into nine provinces.

In the following table the nine provinces are arranged in the order of their areas, and in addition to this is given their estimated population on December 31, 1893:

Area by provinces.

Province.	Hectares.	Square miles.
Luxemburg	441,835	1,706
Hainaut	372,167	1,437
Namur	366,024	1,413
Brabant	328,290	1,268
West Flanders	323,381	1,249
East Flanders	300,029	1,158
Liege	289,485	1,118
Antwerp	283,178	1,093
Limburg	241,201	931
Total	2,945,590	11,373

Population by provinces.

Province.	Census of December 31, 1876.		Census of December 31, 1890.		Estimate of December 31, 1893.	
	Population.	Density per square mile.	Population.	Density per square mile.	Population.	Density per square mile.
Luxemburg	204,201	119.7	211,711	124.1	213,155	124.9
Hainaut	956,354	665.5	1,048,546	729.7	1,072,012	746
Namur	315,796	223.5	335,471	237.4	341,195	241.5
Brabant	936,062	738.2	1,106,158	872.4	1,154,126	910.2
West Flanders	684,468	548	738,442	591.2	755,349	604.8
East Flanders	863,458	745.6	949,526	820	970,398	838
Liege	632,228	565.5	756,734	67[illegible].9	789,151	705.9
Antwerp	538,381	492.6	699,919	640.4	739,889	676.9
Limburg	205,237	220.4	222,814	239.3	226,997	243.8
Total	5,336,185	469.2	6,069,321	533.7	6,262,272	550.6

The area of Belgium is about equal to the area of Maryland, or one-twenty-fourth of the area of Texas. At the same rate of population per square mile as pertains in Belgium, Texas would have a population of 151,000,000, which is equal to the population of the United States, France, and Germany combined.

The following table shows the area and the population, both in the aggregate and per square mile, of Belgium as compared with Maryland and Texas:

	Area.	Population.	
		Aggregate.	Per square mile.
	Sq. miles.		
Belgium (1893)	11,373	6,262,272	550.6
Maryland (1890)	11,124	1,042,390	93.7
Texas (1890)	274,356	2,235,523	8.1

The area of the United States, exclusive of the Territories, would suffice to hold the total population of the globe at the same density as pertains in Belgium.

In 1846 the total population of Belgium was 4,337,196 inhabitants, and in 1880 it was 5,520,009, showing an increase of 1,182,813 inhabitants during the period 1846 to 1880. Of this number the rural population amounted to 1,083,601 inhabitants in 1846 and to 1,199,319 in 1880—25 per cent of the total population in 1846 and 21.8 per cent in 1880.

PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

The following are some of the principal cities and their population December 31, 1892:

Antwerp	240,343	Verviers	50,003
Brussels (including suburbs)	488,188	Bruges	48,246
Liege	155,898	Louvain	40,899
Ghent	151,811	St. Gilles	42,863
Schaerbeck	54,769	Ostend	25,790
Malines	52,001	Namur	31,091

The area of Belgium, which, as above stated, is 11,373 square miles, comprises the two basins of the Meuse and the Scheldt.

Two races of men occupy the soil of Belgium—the Flemings and the Walloons. The former inhabit the two Flanders, the provinces of Antwerp, Limburg, and the north of Brabant, that is to say, the flat lowlands, while the Walloons occupy the table-land of the Ardennes, in the provinces of Liege, Luxemburg, Namur, Hainaut, and the south of Brabant. Although of distinct origin and aspirations, these two peoples are united by a common love of liberty and work. The Belgian peasant is honest, patient, industrious, obedient to the laws, and respectful of the rights of others.

WEALTH AND DEBT.

WEALTH.

In 1878 M. Massalski, professor at University of Louvain, attempted the direct valuation of the whole wealth of the country, and arrived at a total of 29,500,000,000 francs, or about $5,693,500,000, a sum that has often been quoted. In 1880 one of the ministers of state estimated the real property of Belgium at 11,000,000,000 francs, or $2,123,000,000 (house property, etc., 3,500,000,000 francs, or $675,500,000; landed property, 7,500,000,000 francs, or $1,447,500,000), exclusive of the real property exempt from the land tax. Both estimates are considered by certain authorities below the mark, who estimate the wealth of the country as above 34,000,000,000 francs, or $6,562,000,000.

According to official statements contained in the Annuaire Statistique de la Belgique the value of property subject to legacy and succession duties in 1891 was estimated at $69,923,000, which at the death rate then obtaining of 21.2 per 1,000 would make the total wealth of Belgium $3,298,000,000, exclusive of royal palaces, public works, etc. The value of these can not be accurately determined, but is roughly estimated at about $700,000,000. This would make the total wealth of Belgium about $4,000,000,000, an estimate that is materially below that of Massalski, quoted above.

DEBT.

When Belgium formed part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands her contribution to the national exchequer averaged about $17,000,000 per annum, or half the total revenue. On attaining her independence she took $43,000,000 of the debt of the Netherlands, involving an annual burden of $2,000,000.

The revenue, debt, and expenditure for various dates were as follows:

Year.	Revenue.	Debt.	Expenditure.
1835	$17,577,000	$22,627,000	$16,811,000
1850	25,645,000	120,930,000	22,915,000
1870	39,650,000	131,796,000	41,863,000
1880	76,084,000	274,693,000	73,901,000
1890	73,032,000	389,482,000	80,654,000
1891	77,576,000	414,336,000	77,618,000

REVENUE.

In 1890 the principal items of revenue were as follows:

Items.	Amounts.	Items.	Amounts.
Real estate tax	$4,666,700	Registers' fees	$3,818,700
Personal tax	3,584,800	Mortgage fees	643,800
Patent rights	1,330,300	Successorial fees	2,995,000
Customs duties	4,541,900	Stamp and naturalization tax	1,181,500
Excise duties:		Postage stamps	1,731,000
Wine	627,300	Railroads:	
Liquor	4,591,500	Passengers	8,397,200
Beer	1,901,400	Freight	17,123,700
Sugar	894,600	Telegraphs	734,900
Tobacco	158,800		

EXPENDITURE.

The principal items of expenditure in 1890 were made up as follows:

Items.	Amounts.	Items.	Amounts.
Interest on debt	$19,156,600	Ministry of finance	$2,992,900
Endowments	877,800	Ministry of war	9,844,400
Ministry of foreign affairs	473,600	Ministry of interior and public instruction	4,395,000
Ministry of agriculture, industry, and public works	3,207,700	Ministry of justice	3,322,100
Ministry of railways, mails, and telegraphs	20,077,800	Miscellaneous expenditures	351,800

The following table shows the total amount of the liabilities of the Kingdom in 1894:

Netherlands debt, 2½ per cent (share in)	$42,452,209
Loans at 3 per cent	117,540,442
Loans at 3½ per cent	250,483,835
Floating debt (treasury)	3,860,000
Total	414,336,486

Almost the entire debt of Belgium was raised for and devoted to works of public utility, such as State railways, docks, etc. There is a sinking fund attached to all descriptions of the debt, with the exception of the 2½ per cent share in the old Netherlands debt. The total debt amounted to about $66.90 per capita, and the annual charge to about $2.50, or including civil and military pensions, etc., to about $2.90 per capita, but the interest is more than covered by the revenue from railways alone.

The total national indebtedness and the debt per capita in Belgium, the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, France, and the Netherlands, according to the returns of the Eleventh Census, were as follows:

Country.	Population.		Debt (less sinking fund).		Debt per capita.	
	1890.	1880.	1890.	1880.	1890.	1880.
Belgium	6,030,043	5,520,009	$380,504,099	$272,249,275	$63.10	$49.32
United States	62,622,250	50,155,783	891,960,104	1,922,517,364	14.24	38.33
United Kingdom	38,165,526	35,241,482	3,350,619,563	3,577,746,690	87.79	101.52
Germany	49,422,928	45,234,061	85,181,250	(a)	1.72	(a)
France	38,218,903	37,672,048	b 4,446,793,398	4,274,782,478	116.35	113.47
Netherlands	4,505,932	4,012,693	430,589,858	382,440,317	95.56	95.31

a Germany held $85,077,225 cash, and a sinking fund in excess of debt in 1880.
b Inclusive of floating debt, but exclusive of annuities, whose capitalized value is estimated to be no less than $2,000,000,000.

AGRICULTURE.

ADMINISTRATION.

There is in Belgium a minister of agriculture and a superior council of official commissions of agriculture, as well as a number of agricultural societies and gatherings, which are very active, and organize every year numerous agricultural fairs, etc. Horticultural societies are

also very numerous, and have established a federation under the auspices of the Government.

To encourage improvement in the production and breeding of horses and cattle and general progress in agricultural products, prizes are distributed by the State at the end of the fairs established in each province.

Agricultural instruction is given by a veterinary school at Brussels, by the agricultural institute at Gembloux, and by three practical horticultural schools situated at Vilvorde, Gendbrugge, and Ghent, and a practical agricultural school has recently been founded at Huy. Conferences on subjects regarding practical agriculture are organized all over the Kingdom by the initiative of the agricultural societies and meetings.

An agronomic station, whose sphere is the analysis of fertilizers and researches in vegetable physiology and agricultural chemistry, is annexed to the institute at Gembloux. Agricultural laboratories are established at Ghent and at Roulers. And, finally, in this small country there is a considerable number of journals, reviews, or bulletins especially devoted to agriculture and horticulture.

Belgium is perhaps the best cultivated country in the world; for its size it feeds more inhabitants (551 persons per square mile) than any other. The incorporation of capital and work, the great development of means of communication, the liberty of transactions, the improvements which are constantly being made, the art of utilizing manure and raising fine cattle, and "small culture," and small estates, are the causes of this prosperity, which is justly admired by everybody familiar with Belgian agriculture.

CLIMATE.

The climate is temperate—less "extreme" than that of Germany. There is more humidity than in France and less than in Great Britain. The average number of rainy days in the year is 92, giving an average annual rainfall of 28.58 inches. The mean temperature is 50° F., the minimum being 5° and the maximum 86° above zero. The differences in altitude and climate do not permit a fixed limit to be assigned to plants which grow spontaneously here or which are cultivated. All the plants of our northern region are to be found here, but the differences of altitude, the geological constitution of the soil in different parts of the country, and the diversity of the systems of cultivation which are based on these differences permit the division of Belgian territory into a certain number of agricultural regions, each having its own special characteristics.

SOIL.

In a report published in the name of the agricultural societies of Belgium on the occasion of the International Congress of 1878, by M. de Laveleye, author of L'Economie Rurale de la Belgique, the Belgian

territory is divided into eight regions: 1, the region of "polders"; 2, the sandy region; 3, the sandy-loamy region; 4, the loamy region; 5, the Cretaceous region and the country of Hervé; 6, the Condrusian region; 7, the Ardennaise region; 8, the region of the Jura Mountains of lower Luxemburg.

The region of "polders."—Leaving the shores of Ostend and Blankenberque, and going toward the interior from west to east, the elevation of the land increases, and formations can be seen which are more ancient the farther one travels from the ocean. On the seacoast are "polders," which are lands acquired by cultivation and protected from invasion by the sea by means of dunes, dikes, and sluices. The soil of this region of "polders"—which occupies along the coast of the North Sea a zone of from 6 to 15 miles from Antwerp to Blanez, and whose area is about 386 square miles—is formed of compact clay, sometimes calcareous, reposing on a layer of peat, which in its turn reposes on a layer of sand. The fertility of these "polders" is very great; they can produce magnificent crops for forty to fifty years without manuring. The zone of these "polders" is characterized from an agricultural standpoint by the abundance of its natural meadows, the prominence of pulse as a preliminary crop, and the frequent intervention of barley in the rotation of crops. This country produces the finest meat.

The rotation of crops followed in the "polders" is not invariable. The following is a type of rotation much in use: First year, barley or colza; second year, horse beans; third year, wheat; fourth year, horse beans; fifth year, wheat; sixth year, clover; seventh year, wheat; eighth year, potatoes; ninth year, oats, and tenth year, fallow.

The usual size of farms is from about 60 to 75 acres. The land is worth about $360 per acre and the annual rent about $10 per acre. The lands are let to farmers on leases of from seven to nine years; during the last few years many proprietors have farmed their own lands.

The sandy region is composed of dunes, and forms a part of the two Flanders and the Campine. Its area is about 3,100 square miles. The soil of Flanders, poor by nature, as it has been formed by the disaggregation of Tertiary silica, owes its proverbial fertility to the persistent and intelligent work bestowed upon it. Most of the plants of the northern region are raised here, colza, camelina, hops, flax, hemp, tobacco, chicory, all kinds of cereals (with rye predominating), beans, potatoes, red clover, crimson clover, spurry, horse beans, vetches, peas, cabbage, beet root, turnips, carrots, etc. The following is a type of crop rotation very generally adopted: First year, potatoes; second year, rye (with turnips or carrots as a second crop); third year, industrial plants; fourth and fifth years, clover. To produce plenty of manure and to use it advantageously is the secret of agricultural prosperity in Flanders. The cultivation of second crops, together with cabbage, rye

used for fodder, and crimson clover, provides good feed for cattle during winter and renders possible the keeping of large numbers of live stock. Landed property is divided into extremely small parts, the average size of farms being only about 7 acres, and the value per acre is about $400 and the annual rental about $9 per acre.

The Campine, which comprises a large portion of the Provinces of Antwerp and Limburg and a part of Brabant, is a vast, sandy plain reposing on a sort of ferruginous tuff. A large part of this region is exploited very much in the same way as the two Flanders. Industrial plants recur less frequently in the rotation of crops, and the second crops are of less importance. The Campine farmer concentrates his forces; he makes use of extensive culture in order to improve his intensive culture. The "landes,"* which form a part of every farm, are used for pasturing cattle, and thus furnish manure for the other parts under cultivation. The manure is prepared in stables, and there improves in quality without affecting the health of the animals. The following is a type of the rotation of crops: First year, potatoes; second year, rye and spurry; third year, rye; fourth year, oats and clover; fifth year, clover, and sixth year, spurry or buckwheat. The usual size of the farms varies from about 35 to 60 acres, but those of a few hundred square yards are numerous, as every laborer cultivates a plat of ground. Land is worth about $330 per acre, and the annual rental amounts to $10 per acre. Irrigation, a thorough system of which has recently been introduced, has made the Belgian Campine one of the most prosperous sections from an agricultural point of view.

The sandy-loamy region comprises a part of Brabant, Hainaut, Namur, and Antwerp. Its extent is about 1,050 square miles, of which more than 90 per cent are under cultivation. The soil, formed of Quaternary mud or of Tertiary deposits, with a sandy subsoil, is very fertile. Rye and potatoes are chiefly cultivated. The value of the land per acre is about $430, and the annual rental $11 per acre.

The loamy region occupies an area of about 2,700 square miles and extends into all the provinces with the exception of Antwerp and Luxemburg. The soil is a fertile loam, slightly calcareous. Wheat and beet root are raised here, but agriculture is less advanced than in Flanders. It is a region of large holdings, i. e., comparatively large, although recently division of estates has been resorted to. The fertility of the soil makes this one of the most productive regions of Europe. The value of the land is about $430 per acre, and the annual rental $10 per acre.

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* "Lande" is the name given especially to a region lying along the ocean, in Belgium and north of the Pyrenees, which was once the bed of the sea, and is covered with sands of Pliocene age. These sands have in many places, at an inconsiderable depth beneath the surface, become compacted into beds of hard sandstone. The word lande is generally used only with reference to that part of France included in the Department of the Gironde called Les Landes.

The Condrusian region is bounded on the northwest by the Sambre and the Meuse, on the west by the French frontier, and on the south and east by a line running from Monmycies toward Limburg on the Prussian frontier. It forms the transitory zone. There are numerous coal deposits, as also of ores of zinc, lead, and other minerals, etc. The coal region is the basis of the industrial and agricultural strength of this little Kingdom; it presents its highest development in the neighborhood of Mons, Charleroi, and Liege. Agriculture in the Condroz is less advanced than in the other regions. The country is cold and dreary. Cereals, clover, and potatoes are raised, but the chief cereal is spelt. Cattle are rare. The introduction of sainfoin and alfalfa within the last few years has been a step toward progress. The farms are large. Selling price per acre, $250; annual rental per acre, $6.

The Cretaceous region.—The Cretaceous zone is contiguous to the Condroz, and is situated in the neighborhood of Mons, on the banks of the Meuse. The grapevine is still cultivated here, but with little success.

The Herve region.—The country of Herve (area, 236 square miles) is to Belgium what Switzerland is to Europe. The soil is well adapted to pasturage, as it is formed of little rounded eminences which are covered with excellent herbage. Value of land per acre, $350; annual rental, $11 per acre.

The Ardennaise region (area, 1,620 square miles) is bounded on the west by the Condroz and on the east by a line extending from the village of Mumo to the village of Attert. The soil is Silurian, with a small portion Devonian; the decomposition of these rocks has produced an impermeable clay, which forms peat bogs, called in this country "fagnes." The kind of cultivation practiced here utilizes only a small portion of the soil and damages its future possibilities. With manure and lime, which could be transported at a low price by the new railroads, much more profit might be derived from the soil of this region, whose spontaneous natural products are sedges and herbage used for pasture. The cultivated products are rye, oats, buckwheat, and potatoes. Value per acre, $130; annual rental, $4 per acre.

The Jurassic region (area, 365 square miles) comprises a portion of Luxemburg situated to the north of the Ardennaise region. The soil belongs partly to the Jurassic epoch and partly to the Triassic. Wheat, maslin, clover, alfalfa, and potatoes are cultivated. The breeding of swine is also an important industry. Value of land per acre, $130; annual rental, $4 per acre.

Belgium is a land of "small culture" and small estates. The subdivision of holdings is carried on daily. The tenant that pays his rent in kind is becoming rare, giving place to the tenant that pays a cash rent, and he in turn will make way for the owner who farms his own land. Farms are rented on leases from three, six, nine, and sometimes twelve years. Yearly leases are also much in vogue.

SYSTEMS OF CULTURE.

European writers on agriculture divide the systems of culture into petite, moyenne, grande culture, and other classifications. They are defined in the Dictionnaire d'Agriculture of Barral and Sagnier, as follows:

Petite culture (*small culture*).—This term is used when the personnel of the farm is reduced to the farmer and his wife.

Culture moyenne (*mean culture*).—Where the work necessitates the employment of a few outside laborers.

Grande culture.—This expression is used to show that a great number of people are employed by reason of the great extent of the farm.

Pays de petite culture, or pays de grande culture.—These are expressions used to indicate the regions in which one or the other of these conditions predominates. Although these expressions are very elastic, it may be said that generally "petite culture" does not exceed 10 hectares, or about 25 acres in extent; "moyenne culture," 50 to 60 hectares, or about 133½ to 148 acres, and "grande culture," which is still more extensive.

Culture alterne, or alternat (*alternate cultivation*).—The method of sowing in succession a different crop in the same field each year in regular intervals.

Culture améliorante, culture épuisante (*improved cultivation, exhausting cultivation*).—These expressions are used to indicate a succession of crops, which in the first case improve the fertility of the soil and in the second diminish it.

Culture intensive, culture extensive.—Intensive cultivation is the method by which the production is increased by buying manure or food for the cattle. Extensive cultivation, on the contrary, is the method of maintaining the fertility by depending solely on the resources of the farm.

Culture forcée.—Forced cultivation is that where methods are employed to obtain crops out of season.

Culture intercalaire (*intercalary cultivation*).—This is meant to express that the field is divided into rows or bands, in which different crops are sown.

Culture en lignes.—Sowing in lines.

Culture à la volée.—To sow broadcast.

Culture en billon.—To sow in ridges.

Culture en planches.—Sowing in beds.

Culture à plat.—Sowing in borders.

Cultures dérobées.—This name is given to plants which only occupy the soil for a few weeks, and which, owing to their rapid growth, can be raised between the period of two other principal crops. It is especially to increase the quantity of fodder that agriculturists have recourse to this method. When, by reason of a dry spring, the meadow crops are feeble this can be obviated by plowing up the stubble and, immediately after the cereals are harvested, by sowing such plants for fodder as are of rapid growth, or else, at the end of spring, all spare ground can be given up to the growth of these plants. Thus, for example, after the rye is harvested buckwheat may be sown and cut before its maturity, and after rye, cut green in the spring, maize can be sown, etc. Most frequently mixtures or blends of different grains are sown.

LIVE STOCK.

Live-stock raising is more important in Belgium than in any other country of Europe. The Belgians raise more heavy draft horses than are produced in the whole of France. Two varieties of these horses are very remarkable—the Flemish horse and the big Hesbaye horse. Then

comes the Condroz horse and the Ardennaise horse. The cadastral survey of the Kingdom shows that there are 47 head of large-sized farm animals (horses and cattle) to the 100 hectares (247 acres) of surface, and 100 head to 100 hectares (247 acres) of arable land, or 1 head per hectare (2.47 acres), which is considered the maximum of agricultural production.

The following table shows the number of each species of animals and the increase or decrease during the period 1846 to 1880:

Animals.	1846.	1856.	1866.	1880.
Horses	294, 537	277, 321	283, 163	*a* 271, 974
Asses and mules	.....	.....	11, 849	.....
Oxen	1, 203, 891	1, 257, 649	1, 242, 445	1, 382, 815
Sheep	662, 508	583, 485	586, 097	365, 400
Goats	.....	.....	197, 138	.....
Swine	496, 564	458, 418	632, 301	646, 375

a Cause of decrease, small culture and parceling out of the land; small farmers prefer to use cows or oxen.

AREA UNDER CROPS.

The latest available data of distribution of area under crops are for the year 1880. The following table shows the acreage of the principal crops for that year, as well as the quantity and value of average product for the years 1871–1880:

Products.	Area under cultivation in 1880.	Average annual quantity produced, 1871–1880.		Total value of production.
		Pounds.	Bushels.	
CEREALS.	*Acres.*			*Dollars.*
Wheat, spring and winter	681, 828	*a* 951, 500, 522	15, 858, 342	25, 780, 614
		b 2, 068, 305, 700	.....	12, 022, 821
Spelt	129, 760	*a* 16, 314, 726	453, 187	3, 186, 074
		b 33, 126, 620	.....	1, 305, 389
Maslin	63, 569	*a* 88, 829, 927	1, 531, 550	2, 020, 329
		b 195, 670, 387	.....	1, 137, 409
Rye	686, 046	*a* 918, 785, 950	16, 406, 892	17, 389, 760
		b 2, 142, 309, 723	.....	12, 452, 998
Barley	99, 290	*a* 171, 252, 117	3, 567, 752	3, 391, 190
		b 177, 167, 672	.....	1, 029, 855
Oats	616, 480	*a* 857, 561, 862	26, 798, 808	15, 923, 176
		b 1, 375, 054, 563	.....	7, 993, 032
Buckwheat	32, 578	*a* 38, 467, 136	769, 343	790, 026
		b 43, 598, 565	.....	152, 671
Total	.....	.....	.....	104, 575, 344
PULSE.				
Horse beans	47, 166	*a* 72, 635, 880	1, 210, 598	1, 610, 047
Pease and vetches	34, 604	*a* 42, 649, 060	710, 818	996, 510
Total	.....	.....	.....	2, 606, 557
INDUSTRIAL PLANTS.				
Hemp	1, 989	*c* 1, 374, 761	.....	240, 703
		d 1, 158, 510	.....	30, 426
Flax	99, 033	*c* 50, 049. 627	.....	12, 049, 169
		d 33, 099, 605	.....	1, 020, 264
Rape and other oleaginous plants	15, 906	19, 242, 007	.....	638, 259
Teasels	104	.....	.....	1, 621
Tobacco	3, 897	6, 664, 359	.....	565, 917
Hops	10, 341	11, 916, 489	.....	2, 587, 145
Chicory	27, 243	570, 281, 071	.....	2, 246, 596
Sugar beet	80, 621	2, 475, 498, 602	.....	4, 334, 273
Total	.....	.....	.....	23, 714, 373

a Grain. *b* Straw. *c* Fiber. *d* Seed.

Area under crops—Continued.

Products.	Area under cultivation in 1880.	Average annual quantity produced, 1871-1880.		Total value of production.
		Pounds.	Bushels.	
FODDER PLANTS.	*Acres.*			*Dollars.*
Mangel-wurzel	64,713	2,050,375,675	.....	3,589,919
Carrots and parsnips (first crop)	6,914	105,102,035	.....	368,039
Turnips and cabbages (first crop)	17,707	273,870,317	.....	479,511
Total	.....	.....	.....	4,437,469
Potatoes	492,611	5,483,655,302	91,394,255	44,309,352
FORAGE AND GRASSES.				
Red clover	277,960	5,538,082,401	.....	12,896,285
White clover / Yellow clover	119,428	1,598,305,408	.....	3,721,902
Alfalfa	33,228	775,834,656	.....	1,806,651
Sainfoin	14,591	220,802,318	.....	514,172
Serradella	3,996	91,266,107	.....	212,527
Meadows and orchards	971 323	3,341,812,465	.....	29,986,757
Total	.....	.....	.....	49,138,294
MISCELLANEOUS.				
Not elsewhere specified	19,758	.....	.....	617,291
Fallow	103,787	.....	.....	207,523
Heaths, waste lands	573,183	.....	.....	447,691
Kitchen gardens	98,158	.....	.....	7,666,732
Vineyards	509	.....	.....	45,125
Nurseries	6,071	.....	.....	474,201
Osier holts	11,040	.....	.....	689,859
Pleasure gardens, parks	29,138	.....	.....	910,342
Total	.....	.....	.....	11,058,764
SECOND OR AFTER CROPS.				
Carrots	40,455	341,038,395	.....	1,194,226
Turnips	339,782	4,908,040,171	.....	8,593,333
Crimson clover	32,827	563,400,518	.....	1,311,966
Spurry	59,667	579,749,779	.....	5,202,212
Other products	11,801	.....	.....	368,707
Total	.....	.....	.....	16,670,444
Forests	1,209,364	.....	.....	4,179,122
Isolated plantations	.....	.....	.....	289,500
Products of horticulture	.....	.....	.....	2,895,000
Fruits	.....	.....	.....	8,685,000
Aggregate	.....	.....	.....	272,559,219

YIELD PER ACRE OF PRINCIPAL CROPS.

The subjoined table shows the estimates of the yield per acre of the principal crops for the years 1890, 1891, and 1892:

Crops.		1890.	1891.	1892.
Cereals:				
Oats	bushels	50	52.6	43.9
Spelt	do	46.5	33.9	37.4
Wheat—				
Winter	do	28.5	23.5	30.7
Spring	do	24.1	26.2	26.2
Rye—				
Winter	do	44.5	33.7	43.3
Spring	do	34.1	37.7	36.6
Buckwheat	do	20.9	23.7	21.3
Barley	do	28.8	22.6	32.4
Pulse:				
Horse beans	do	29.6	27	27.9
Peas	do	27	22	28.3
Industrial plants:				
Sugar beet	pounds	28,152	24,261	27,222
Winter colza	bushels	31.8	21.2	27.8
Flax—				
Fiber	pounds	455	465	425
Seed	bushels	5.7	5.1	4.5
Tobacco	pounds	1,240	1,392	1,456
Hops	do	.....	.....	981
Mangel-wurzel	do	38,581	35,133	37,753
Potatoes	do	12,341	11,097	20,793
Forage plants:				
Permanent pasture	do	3,063	3,100	2,440
Clover	do	23,726	22,844	14,921

DISTRIBUTION OF PRINCIPAL CROPS.

Wheat is chiefly grown in the Provinces of Hainaut, Brabant, and the two Flanders. The total area under this cereal amounted to 576,860 acres in 1846, 700,632 acres in 1866, and 681,828 acres in 1880.* Spelt is an important crop in the Province of Namur. The total acreage was 129,760 in 1880, as compared with 158,989 acres in 1866.

Maslin, a mixture of rye and wheat, is grown in limited quantities, chiefly in East Flanders and Luxemburg. The acreage decreased from 87,688 in 1866 to 63,569 in 1880.

Rye is the principal cereal grown, the area under this crop amounting to 686,046 acres in 1880, as against 714,035 acres in 1866. This grain is the favorite food of the Flemish population. Its culture finds its greatest extent in the Provinces of the two Flanders, Brabant, Antwerp, and Limburg.

Oats is the third cereal with regard to area under cultivation and the first as regards production in bushels. Its cultivation is on the increase, the area sown to it having increased from 500,205 acres in 1846 to 541,559 acres in 1856 and 567,695 acres in 1866; and in 1880 it was 616,480 acres.

Barley is used almost exclusively for the manufacture of beer. It is chiefly grown in the two Flanders, Hainaut, and Brabant. In 1880 99,290 acres were sown to this crop, as against 107,783 acres in 1866.

* Statistics of area under crops are not available for any year more recent than 1880.

Buckwheat is chiefly grown in the Campine and on the poorer soils of the two Flanders. In 1880 the acreage was 32,578.

Pulse.—Of pulse the principal kinds cultivated are peas and vetches, either as the sole crop, or grown as a mixed crop with horse beans or cereals. On clayey soils beans and horse beans are also grown.

Sugar beet.—The culture of the sugar beet was in its infancy in 1846, only 5,251 acres being devoted to its cultivation. In 1866 the area under this crop had risen to 44,663 acres; in 1880 to 80,621 acres, and it now amounts to about 175,000 acres.

Root crops.—Mangel-wurzel, turnips, carrots, and other roots are also largely cultivated in Belgium, but the principal root crop is potatoes. The area under this crop has been steadily increasing, as the following figures show: 1846, 284,318 acres; 1856, 370,000 acres; 1866, 423,524 acres; 1880, 492,611 acres. The potato plays an important part in the dietary of the Belgians, the average consumption for food and other purposes being more than 15 bushels per head of population.

Meadows, pastures, and orchards laid down in grass occupied an area of 903,904 acres in 1866. In 1880 their total area amounted to 961,471 acres, classified as follows: Meadows, 527,005 acres; pastures, 340,699 acres; orchards, 93,767 acres.

Clover and grasses under rotation, as well as other fodder plants, are largely cultivated in Belgium.

Industrial plants, besides the sugar beet, are cultivated as follows: Colza and similar oleaginous plants, flax, hemp, chicory, teasels, tobacco, and hops. The average value of the product of these crops for the period 1871 to 1880 was as follows: Hemp fiber, $241,000; flax fiber, $12,049,000; flaxseed, $1,020,000; oil seeds, $638,000; teasels, $1,600; tobacco, $566,000; hops, $2,587,000, and chicory, $2,247,000.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND ESTABLISHMENTS, AND MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

Truck farming, market gardening, and horticulture are prominent industries in Belgium. The methods of market gardeners and florists are as advanced as any in the world. The average annual exports of flowers and vegetables amount to about $1,000,000, and the florists of the United States obtain a large portion of their supplies from Belgium.

Agricultural industrial establishments, such as sugar factories, breweries, and distilleries, abound throughout the country. In 1893 there were in existence 121 sugar factories, 2,875 breweries, and 250 distilleries, with an approximate product of 419,565,494 pounds of raw sugar, 290,000,000 gallons of beer, and 15,437,000 of distilled liquors (50°), respectively.

Agriculture and commerce are favored by numerous means of communication. Fine wagon roads intersect the country in all directions. Numerous navigable canals make up for the short extent of seacoast, and make the interior towns of Louvain, Ghent, Bruges, Antwerp, Malines, and Brussels veritable seaports. The numerous railroads have become the most active auxiliaries of agricultural and industrial

progress. On December 31, 1892, the total length of railroads amounted to 2,812 miles, of highways to 5,657 miles, and of navigable canals to 1,370 miles. In proportion to extent of territory Belgium has more railroads than any other country, and agricultural products are benefited by the low freight rates which permit their transportation to any part of the Kingdom.

THE POULTRY INDUSTRY.

Among the minor branches of rural activity the poultry industry occupies a prominent place in Belgium. It is but natural that in a land characterized by small holdings (petite culture), diversified industries, and the densest population in Europe, every means be utilized for increasing the income of the rural laborer. Large numbers of Leghorn fowls are imported from Italy. French and English breeds of fowls are also raised, but the two distinctively Belgian breeds are the Malines and the Campines, each named after the locality where it predominates. The Maline fowl stands in high repute among the Belgian poultry raisers, and it is not difficult to explain why this breed is considered of great value and its type well fixed. It attains a very large size, as large as any table fowl, the quality of its meat is excellent, and although the hen is not an extraordinary layer, she lays a fair number of eggs during the year and is a good mother. The chickens are very hardy and mature rapidly. As is the case in many poultry districts in Belgium as well as in France and England, there are in the vicinity of the capital, at Beyghem, Wemmel, Humbeck, Cappelle-aux-Bois, Muysen, etc., poultry breeders who confine their labors to the hatching of chicks and sell the young birds alive on the market of Malines to specialists whose care is to fatten them for table use. It is these specialists that every traveler in Brussels has seen arrive in the morning with their little carts drawn by dogs carrying their stock of fine fattened poultry, the "cuckoos of Malines." Brussels is an excellent market for fine table poultry. Its inhabitants have long been noted as being fond of this species of food. Ever since the year 1370 they have been facetiously termed "kiekefretters," that is, chicken eaters.

The other breed possessing a popularity in Belgium almost equal to the preceding is the Campine. As the former is raised for its excellencies as a table fowl, the latter owes its popularity to its laying powers. Although the meat of this fowl is fine and delicate, there is not enough of it, the breed being quite small. The Campine is nearly allied to the well-known Hamburgs. It is a wide ranger, lively, alert, and is both an excellent layer and a good mother. The popular name of this variety in its home is "pond tous les jours" (every-day layer). The number of eggs obtained per hen under favorable conditions is from 180 to 220 per annum.

PRODUCTION OF AND THE TRADE IN EGGS.

During the period 1871–1880 the Belgian Annuary stated the average annual number of poultry in the Kingdom to be 3,967,000, whose annual

production in eggs was estimated at 840,000,000, valued at $7,000,000, and in table poultry at 2,631,000 head, valued at $1,000,000. It is believed that at present the total number is at least 6,000,000, and the value of annual product of eggs and table poultry not far from $12,000,000. Still, Belgium does not produce enough eggs for her own consumption, as will be seen by a comparison of the figures of imports and exports (special commerce), the former largely exceeding the latter. The table of imports and exports (general commerce) shows that enormous quantities of eggs pass through Belgium in transit, chiefly for England. Since the opening of the St. Gotthard tunnel Italy has become the chief source of supply. Since this route was opened from Switzerland to Italy the traffic in eggs has been something astounding. The competition of routes led to a great reduction of rates, and eggs are sent from northern Italy through Belgium to London for much less than used to be charged from northern France.

The following table shows the imports and exports of eggs, both in the general and special commerce, for the years 1891, 1892, and 1893:

Importation of eggs into Belgium.

Countries of supply.	1891.		1892.		1893.	
	General commerce.	Special commerce.	General commerce.	Special commerce.	General commerce.	Special commerce.
	Number.	*Number.*	*Number.*	*Number.*	*Number.*	*Number.*
Germany	23, 110, 501	11, 565, 902	25, 569, 016	17, 540, 297	29, 310, 922	14, 207, 526
England	1, 387, 820	1, 240, 820	1, 899, 200	1, 579, 100	3, 265, 616	3, 262, 616
Austria	83, 807, 388	8, 191, 248	157, 984, 260	8, 926, 100	138, 476, 330	2, 705 000
Canada	1, 000	1, 000	.....	.....	.....	.....
Denmark	274, 400	194, 400	200, 000	200, 000	.....	.....
France	2, 733, 217	2, 540, 061	1, 798, 236	1, 700, 964	1, 064, 134	1, 061, 052
Luxemburg	317, 300	317, 300	256. 503	256, 503	195, 585	195, 585
Hamburg	2, 499, 909	2, 425, 929	867, 580	867, 580	201, 600	201, 600
Italy	163, 399, 647	63, 357, 616	157, 318, 540	63, 643, 298	186, 113, 139	76, 036, 524
Netherlands	3, 531, 227	3, 341, 735	3, 134, 688	2, 930, 830	3, 291, 078	3, 273, 950
Roumania	.....	.....	.....	.....	383, 040	383, 040
Russia	9, 589, 929	9, 589, 929	2, 552, 760	2, 552, 760	2 406, 200	2, 269, 460
Turkey	.....	.....	.....	.....	160, 000	160, 000
Switzerland	170, 000	170, 000	.....	.....	.....	.....
Other countries	.....	.....	22, 500	22, 500	136, 355	50
Total	290, 822, 338	102, 935, 940	351, 603, 283	100, 219, 932	365. 003, 999	103, 756, 403
Value	$4, 490, 297	$1, 589, 331	$4, 750, 160	$1, 353, 971	$4, 931, 204	$1, 401, 749

Exportation of eggs from Belgium.

Countries supplied.	1891.		1892.		1893.	
	General commerce.	Special commerce.	General commerce.	Special commerce.	General commerce.	Special commerce.
	Number.	*Number.*	*Number.*	*Number.*	*Number.*	*Number.*
Germany	781, 880	781, 880	1, 043, 600	617, 500	1, 015, 020	1, 015, 020
England	214. 123, 621	33, 172, 371	282, 243, 463	37, 350, 369	274, 736, 607	28, 070, 266
France	36, 973, 907	31, 251, 215	32, 608, 515	27, 985, 639	44, 065, 568	30, 811, 895
Luxemburg	11, 210	11, 210	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hamburg	66, 240	66, 240	.....	.....	.....	.....
Netherlands	2. 565, 621	1, 353, 165	3, 085. 025	1, 643, 753	2, 239, 476	934, 594
Other countries	.....	.....	252, 170	252, 170	233, 720	211, 020
Total	254. 522, 479	66, 636, 081	319. 232, 773	67, 849, 422	322, 290, 391	61, 042, 795
Value	$3, 929, 827	$1, 028, 861	$4. 312, 835	$916, 646	$4, 354, 143	$824, 688

It is estimated that Belgium imports each year for her own consumption 100,000,000 eggs, of which 63,000,000 to 76,000,000 are supplied by Italy, 12,000,000 to 18,000,000 by Germany, and from 1,000,000 to 2,500,000 only by France.

The eggs sell in Belgium by weight, and the price varies a great deal, according to the season, the best times being in the spring and autumn. The eggs are packed in long cases, which contain 1,440 eggs, and they are imported into Belgium free of duty.

In this connection the following article on Belgian poultry farms, which was published in the Chasse et Pêche, a Belgian publication of authority, is interesting:

Les fermes de poules en Belgique (*Belgian poultry farms*).—Since the last year or two a new industry has sprung up in many of the large farms in Belgium. Up to that time farmers had never succeeded in keeping more than 100 to 150 laying hens. Now many farms possess 500, and others even double this number. The young pullets are imported from Italy, and their eggs are collected during two seasons, after which they have attained their maximum weight and are sold again as table poultry, and bring a higher price than they cost as pullets, and are then replaced by others newly imported.

The principle is new. It is based on the division of labor. The pullets are raised in Italy and prepared for market in Belgium, while their eggs are sent to England under the most favorable conditions.

Some little time after the opening of the St. Gothard tunnel the Italian fowl was introduced into Belgium. A former attempt had been made to make this race of excellent-laying hens popular on the Flemish farms, but no attention was paid to them. In 1885 the firm of Ed. Paquay & Co., of Verviers, foreseeing the profit to be realized, began to import these fowls on a large scale. Thousands of francs were spent by this company trying to teach farmers the advantages to be derived from these incomparable layers and to organize a system of regular, rapid, and cheap transportation. The pullets arrive in car loads, and can be sent to all parts of Belgium, freight paid, in cages of 25, 50, or 100 pullets, at from 24 to 39 cents apiece, according to their age. Taken by the 500 there is a further reduction of 10 centimes, or about 2 cents apiece. It is impossible to raise them in Belgium at such prices.

Until the Italian fowl is acclimated she can endure neither damp weather nor the north winds. Therefore, the importation is stopped from October until April. The best time is from May until August.

The Italian fowl is distinguished by yellow feet, and the hen has a large drooping comb. They are of all colors, but the partridge colored, called brown Leghorns, are most admired and predominate in number.

After laying for two years the hens are fattened and then sold on the market for from 29 to 48 cents each. They are much esteemed on account of their delicate flesh.

On these poultry farms the fowls are lodged in large stables. In these the ground is dug up to a considerable distance and then covered with a thick bed of moss peat. All the perches are movable and placed at the same height. The run is usually the large orchard adjoining the buildings. The hedge around it is kept so that no fowl can pass through, and is also made more secure by a wire netting being placed around the lower part.

Some farmers introduce two or three cocks among the hens to serve as guides. The proportion is 7 to 1,000 hens. However, the eggs that are not fertilized are the most delicate and keep fresh the longest.

It is rather curious that Italian fowls that have been imported and acclimated in Belgium lay more eggs and larger ones than they do at home. Thus, the Belgian eggs that are shipped to England weigh on the average 139 to 141 pounds per 1,000,

while the eggs from Italy weigh only from 128 to 130 pounds per 1,000. The eggs arrive in London fresh and the expense of sending them is not great. Besides, the cost of transport is often covered by the boxing of the eggs. This fragile merchandise is packed in long boxes of a certain size, and these boxes are afterwards used in England for making coffins for workhouses and hospitals.

The poultry farmers make direct contracts with the exporters. The average price of eggs is about 1 cent apiece.

The best food for the fowls is maize, wheat, barley, and a little oats. Five hundred hens require 35 kilograms (77 pounds) of grain per day. As a cheaper kind of food, the residue from starch factories is also used.

We have not yet been able to obtain positive data as to the number of eggs laid each year; this industry has not been established long enough. Sellers say that during the two seasons a hen will lay from 180 to 200 eggs annually. The Italian hen is a good layer, even in winter when eggs are dearest.

In the Hesbaie and Brabant Walloon it is a fact that farms of 500 and 1,000 hens have greatly multiplied this year, and many small farmers in the neighborhood have built henhouses for the accommodation of from 50 to 100 Italian hens.

The same principle of division of labor has been applied to raising fowls for the table in the neighborhood of Brussels. Farmers there do no more than raise the fowls of the Malines and Coucou breed, and then sell them in the markets of Malines and Merchtem to others who make a business of fattening them for the table.

THE BEET-SUGAR INDUSTRY OF BELGIUM.

In proportion to its population, Belgium produces more beet-root sugar than any other country in Europe. Belgium had in 1893 no less than 121 beet-sugar factories, and in a population of 6,262,272 inhabitants, this was an average of 1 factory for every 51,750 inhabitants, while in Germany, whose population in the same year numbered 50,748,000 inhabitants, there were 405 sugar factories, or 1 for 125,000 inhabitants.

Belgium, following the example of Germany and Austria-Hungary and other progressive countries, develops every day more and more her industrial capacity. Since 1888–89 the sugar product of Belgium has doubled, while the number of factories has decreased.

The culture of the sugar beet in Belgium occupied in 1894 an area of 172,230 acres, representing about 4.4 per cent of the entire sugar-beet area of Europe, which is about 3,869,600 acres.

In 1894 the area planted to sugar beets was more than 20 per cent greater than that of the year 1893. A similar increase is to be found only in Holland; other countries, such as France, Germany, and Austria-Hungary, have increased their area not more than 10 or 12 per cent over that of 1893. No doubt the Belgian manufacturers have sold their product at high prices. This reason, together with the low price of wheat, a cereal being deprived of all tariff protection, naturally encourages the cultivation of the beet root. In fact, from the declarations made by the manufacturers, the beet-root crop in Belgium in 1894 was 2,258,000 metric tons, as against 2,050,000 metric tons in 1893, the yield in 1894 being about 71,400 pounds per hectare (2.471 acres), as compared with 81,600 pounds per hectare in 1893. This lower yield per hectare in 1894, together with frequent inferiority in

the quality of the root, caused the total product of sugar to be from 1 to 1½ per cent less in 1894 than in the preceding year. The quantity (*prise en charge*) held at the custom-house for 1894–95 is estimated at 444,518,000 pounds of raw sugar, against 415,189,000 pounds in 1893 94.

In Belgium the duty on sugar is calculated according to the volume and density of beet-root juice used in its manufacture. The *prise en charge* appraisement is assessed at the rate of 26,235 grains of raw sugar to 1° of density of juice, and to 1 hectoliter of juice at 59° F. A special additional tax is levied on those factories that use the osmosis process. The *prise en charge* is therefore a known factor; the documents of the Treasury show it exactly. But the quantity of sugar extracted over and above this appraisement is unknown, and there is no private or official publication in Belgium that can give the exact figures. It is, therefore, estimated approximately.

If we are to believe a Belgian statistician, M. Gieseker, Belgium's beet-root crop this year will be 2,551,785 metric tons, with an average yield of raw sugar of 10 per cent. The actual production of sugar would, therefore, be 278,145 metric tons, against 220,000 tons of *prise en charge*, being an excess of 58,000 metric tons of the actual over the estimated product.

In other terms, the actual amount of sugar obtained in excess of the estimate would represent 20 per cent of the total production.

It must be observed that M. Gieseker admits a falling off of 1 per cent in the sugar yield for this year, thus assuming that last year the Belgian sugar factories obtained 11.9 per cent of raw sugar, which is considered a very good result.

According to other statisticians, who are more moderate in their estimates—for example, the Prager Zuckermarkt—Belgium will produce this year only 240,000 metric tons of sugar against 201,000 appraised, which will only allow of 19 per cent in excess of the total production. Whichever of these two estimates is correct, it is certain that the refineries greatly exceed the appraisement, and thus realize a considerable bonus above the internal-revenue charge.

The rate of the excise on sugar in Belgium is $8.685 per 100 kilograms (220.462 pounds) of raw sugar, and the drawback returned for exportation is likewise $8.685 per 100 kilograms of raw sugar Nos. 10 to 15 of a yield of 89 per cent. However, as refiners are responsible for the receipt of the sugar, the quarterly minimum being $289,500, and as this minimum was not attained, there is a retention of $0.579 per sack of sugar, so that on exporting the manufacturer receives only $8.106 per 100 kilograms.

Many manufacturers are in favor of the abolition of the additional tax. This measure would make Belgium a free market and open to foreign competition. Is it to be understood by this that Belgium does not fear this competition? In the meantime the syndicate of Belgian refineries has become broken by an unexpected event—the purchase

of the Tirlemontoise refinery by a great Belgian sugar manufacturer, M. Paul Wittouck, of the Centrales Sucreries of Wanze.

A factory of beet-root sugar is annexed to the refinery at Tirlemont, which is the largest of all Belgian refineries. Raw sugar is here refined by the "Steffen"* process.

After this purchase by M. Wittouck the syndicate ceased to exist, and the price of refined sugar fell from $19.30 to $16.212 per 100 kilograms (220.462 pounds). What the new proprietor of Tirlemont will do now is not yet known. There is talk of certain transformations which will greatly lower the expense of refining.

The product of these beet-root refineries is generally a fine sugar of a light-brown shade. They also make granulated white sugar for exportation as well as for home consumption. This sugar seems to find a good market; at least, the statistics of the custom-house show that the exportation of white granulated sugar is increasing. From 78 metric tons in 1889 it increased to 6,277 metric tons in 1891, then to 9,636 tons in 1892, and finally to 13,293 metric tons in 1893. The exportation of candies is increasing, while that of sugar loaves has decreased since 1889.

THE BEET-SUGAR INDUSTRY IN EUROPE.

In this connection the following on the present state of the beet-sugar industry in Europe, compiled from a communication of M. Georges Dureau, an eminent European authority on all matters relating to the sugar industry, to the Société Nationale d'Agriculture de France, will be studied with interest. His statements are of moment to the cane-sugar planters of the United States, as it shows the declining area of the sugar-beet crop in Belgium and other European countries where prevails the bounty system under which the cultivation of the beet-root has been fostered and extended:

The fall in the price of sugar last winter resulted in a marked reduction in the area sown to sugar beets in Europe this season. According to the recent inquiries of the Association Internationale pour la Statistique Sucrière, the diminution for the principal beet-growing countries of Europe—Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia, France, Belgium, and Holland—amounts this year to 495,000 acres, which represents a decline of 13 per cent on last year's area. In view of this retrograde movement, it is of interest to glance at the course of beet-sugar cultivation during the last dozen years, the period which has elapsed since legislation placed France in a position in which she could compete upon equal terms with the other principal beet-growing countries. Accordingly, the subjoined table shows the areas under sugar beets in the respective countries in the years named, and at the foot there is added a line showing the annual average acreages for the whole period. The totals in the right-

* See Bulletin No. 5, p. 18.

hand column include, in some years, insignificant areas contributed by European countries other than the six enumerated in the table:

Campaign.	Germany.	Austria-Hungary.	Russia.	France.	Belgium.	Holland.	Total.
	Acres.	*Acres.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*
1884-85	780,836	644,931	788,249	368,179	79,072	51,891	2,713,158
1885-86	578,214	340,998	808,017	279,223	49,420	39,536	2,095,408
1886-87	684,467	506,555	731,416	385,476	86,485	44,478	2,438,877
1887-88	652,344	415,128	622,692	397,831	86,485	46,949	2,223,900
1888-89	691,880	533,736	662,228	425,012	98,840	49,420	2,463,587
1889-90	738,829	674,583	637,518	509,026	123,550	61,775	2,745,281
1890-91	812,959	738,829	726,474	548,562	128,492	71,659	3,026,975
1891-92	830,256	810,488	736,358	551,033	133,434	51,891	3,113,460
1892-93	869,792	817,901	689,409	538,678	121,079	59,304	3,093,692
1893-94	953,806	864,850	741,300	543,620	140,847	66,717	3,311,140
1894-95	1,089,711	929,096	830,256	583,156	175,441	84,014	3,694,145
1895-96	916,741	714,119	854,966	491,729	140,847	81,543	3,202,416
Average for twelve years	800,604	667,170	736,358	469,490	113,666	59,304	2,846,592

NOTE.—The figures do not always agree with official estimates of area, some of which are quoted in this bulletin as well as in previous numbers of the series.

It is seen that, while the area sown in 1884 reached 2,713,158 acres, it fell in each of the four succeeding years below 2,465,000 acres. But in 1889-90 the area again rose to 2,745,281 acres, and in 1894-95—that is, last season—it approached 3,700,000 acres, this being the high-water mark for the period under review. If we compare the aggregate area in 1884-85 with that in 1894-95, the year that led to the crisis, we see that in this space of eleven years the total area increased by 980,987 acres, equivalent to an addition of 36 per cent. The table further shows what share each country has contributed to this extension.

Thus, comparing 1884 with 1894, Germany increased its area from 780,836 acres to 1,089,711 acres, the increase of 308,875 acres representing 39 per cent of the area in the earlier year. Similarly in Austria-Hungary the increase in area amounted to 44 per cent, in Russia to 5.6 per cent, in France to 59 per cent, in Belgium 121 per cent, and in Holland to 61 per cent, on the respective areas of 1884. The extension of beet-root culture is thus seen to have been general in its distribution when the two years 1884 and 1894 are compared, and, excepting in Russia, where the increase is comparatively trivial, all the countries concerned have participated largely in this development.

The unprecedented depreciation in the value of raw sugar upon all the markets of the world has, however, promptly checked this inclination to extend the area under the beet crop. A comparison of the areas for this year and last year will show that everywhere except in Russia, where the area has been more uniform throughout, there is a considerable decline in the extent of land which has this season been placed under the crop. As compared with last year's area, indeed, Germany now registers a decline of 16 per cent, Austria-Hungary of 23 per cent, France of 15.6 per cent, Belgium of 19 per cent, and Holland of 3 per cent. Russia, on the contrary, is credited with an increase of 3 per cent. It should be remembered, however, that Russia is a closed market, protected by extremely high duties upon sugar, and it thus escapes to a considerable extent (though not entirely) those fluctuations which take place in countries which are more susceptible to the variations in the markets of the world.

Generally it may be said that between 1884 and 1894 the cultivation of sugar beets progressed until the area devoted to it had increased by 36 per cent in the principal European countries. Then, as a result of the crisis, this year's area has in the aggregate fallen off to the amount of 13 per cent of that of last year. It is of interest to inquire to what extent the relative positions of the several countries have been affected by the fall in the price of sugar and the consequent reduction in the values of

the beet crop. If we assign to each country its percentage of the total European area of beet root in 1884–85 and 1895–96, we get the following figures:

Year.	Germany.	Austria-Hungary.	Russia.	France.	Belgium.	Holland.
	Per cent.	*Per cent.*	*Per cent*	*Per cent.*	*Per cent*	*Per cent.*
1884	28.79	23.77	29.02	13.55	2.91	1.94
1895	28.60	22.48	26.74	15.36	4.40	2.52

It can hardly be said that Germany has lost her position, for this year she claims 28.6 per cent of the beet area of Europe, which differs very slightly from the 28.79 per cent in 1884. Austria-Hungary again shows little variation, with a decline from 23.77 per cent to 22.48. Russia, which possessed 29.02 per cent of the European area in 1884, has now only 26.74 per cent. The countries of western Europe have all bettered their positions, France having advanced from 13.55 per cent to 15.36, Belgium from 2.91 per cent to 4.4, and Holland from 1.94 per cent to 2.52. Leaving Russia out of account, it is seen that the order of precedence is the same now as it was eleven years ago.

FISHERIES.

The number of vessels engaged in deep-sea and tide-water fisheries and the product of the cod and herring fisheries are shown in the appended table:

Year.	Deep-sea fisheries.		Cod fisheries.		Herring fisheries.		Tide-water fisheries.	
	Vessels engaged.	Tonnage.	Vessels engaged.	Amount of product.	Vessels engaged.	Value of product.	Vessels engaged.	Value of product.
				Pounds.				
1880	307	10,180	142	3,180,365	42	$8,141	307	$543,215
1890	349	11,265	49	902,106	51	3,397	413	631,631
1891	341	11,210	66	1,026,251	36	10,422	316	644,097
1892	336	10,751	22	221,344	45	13,664	331	620,792
1893	364	10,636	30	371,258	78	7,527	336	646,141

MANUFACTURES.

The mineral resources of Belgium, and particularly the abundance of coal and iron, are the principal factors in making this one of the foremost manufacturing countries on the globe. There is hardly a branch of manufacturing industry that is not represented in this factory-studded land.

The following table shows the number of manufacturing establishments, as well as other data concerning manufacturing industries, for the years 1846 and 1880, as far as the censuses of these two years admit of comparisons:

	1846.	1880.
Number of manufacturers or artisans	114,751	.....
Number of industrial establishments	.....	26,521
Total number of laborers engaged in manufacturing industries	314,842	384,065
Total personnel	.....	428,755
Motive power:		
Steam engines—		
Number	1,514	8,433
Horsepower	37,007	209,346
Machines worked by—		
Handpower	1,521	.....
Horsepower	2,035	.....
Windmills	2,739	2,158
Water mills	2,634	2,436
Other motors	.....	86
Total energy in horsepower	.....	242,435
Value of product	.....	$419,802,000

NAVIGATION AND SHIPPING.

The following are the ports of entry of the Kingdom of Belgium: Antwerp, Bruges, Brussels, Ghent, Nieuport, Ostend, Salzaete, and Termonde. The principal ones are Antwerp and Ghent. Of late years the ports situated on the North Sea and on the English Channel have invaded the realm where Belgium had almost a monopoly. For some years past France, Germany, and the Netherlands have expended large amounts of money to attract commerce to their ports, and it is now admitted that to retain the trade there must be a keen competition between the ports on the North Sea and the English Channel, as nothing has been left undone for the improvement of harbor facilities, millions having been spent in maritime works, so that steamships of the largest class may be able to discharge and load with the greatest economy of time and labor. Including Antwerp, the principal ports of this locality are Hamburg, Cuxhaven, Bremerhaven, Nordenham, Amsterdam, Hook of Holland at the mouth of the Maas, Rotterdam, Dunkirk, Havre, Boulogne sur-Mer, and Southampton.

Antwerp is the largest port in the Kingdom, and up to a few years ago held the most commanding position in the north of Europe in the race for international trade. The total number of vessels that entered and their tonnage for the years 1892, 1893, and 1894 were as follows:

1892.		1893.		1894.	
Number of ships—sail and steam.	Tonnage.	Number of ships—sail and steam.	Tonnage.	Number of ships—sail and steam.	Tonnage.
4,330	4,493,002	4,418	4,692,211	4,640	5,008,983

In 1880 the tonnage of ships of all kinds that entered the port of Antwerp was 3,006,707 tons. It had increased in 1890 to only 4,499,044 tons, and in 1894 to 5,008,983 tons. During the same period the tonnage of ships entered at Hamburg, which in 1880 was 2,766,806 tons, increased in 1894 to 6,228,821 tons.

Besides the competition of the above-mentioned port, Antwerp has strong rivals in the ports of Rotterdam, Bremen, Flushing, Ostend, Dunkirk, Marseilles, and Bordeaux. Twenty years ago Antwerp was mistress of the transit traffic between south and east Germany, northern and eastern France, Switzerland, Austria, England, and the United States. This trade is diminishing, and is going to German, Dutch, and French seaports. According to the Indépendence Belge, this is ascribed to the excessive port and harbor charges of Antwerp. Ships of 1,800 tons pay on entering the Scheldt 400 francs, or $77.20, which tax does not exist either at Rotterdam or Hamburg.

In view of the diminishing commerce of Antwerp, and its great distance from the sea (it being 56 miles distant from the mouth of the

Scheldt), as well as the high port charges as compared with the rival ports of Hamburg, Rotterdam, and Dunkirk (which have done more than anything else to drive vessels to those ports), and also its want of modern facilities for loading and discharging cargoes quickly, together with its antiquated quays and basins, there has been for some time an agitation in Belgium for the creation of a new seaport, which has resulted in the Government voting a credit for the construction of a canal from Heyst, near the sea in West Flanders, to Bruges, and the construction of a seaport at the latter port. So that on September 30, 1895, the attempt to convert the ancient city of Bruges into a North Sea port was begun by the commencement of the construction of a ship canal to the city from Heyst, a village situated 14 miles to the north of Ostend, and with an avant port at Heyst itself, to serve as a port of call mainly for transatlantic steamers, and the provision of another port with docks, warehouses, and other shipping appointments. The total cost of the works is estimated at 39,000,000 francs, or $7,527,000. Toward this amount the State contributes 27,000,000 francs ($5,211,000) for the new port at Heyst and the city of Bruges 5,000,000 francs, or $965,000, while the remaining 7,000,000 francs ($1,351,000) will be contributed by a limited liability company, which will, on completion, take entire control alike over the port, canal, and docks. The navigation of the canal itself will be free, and the various dues and charges for loading, unloading, etc., will have to be approved by the Government, and it is stipulated that they shall not be higher than at other Belgian ports. The most important works will be the new port at the entrance of Heyst, which will be constructed on a scale large enough to accommodate at one time from twelve to fifteen of the largest Atlantic steamers, and it will be protected by a breakwater stretching some 2 miles or more into the sea. It is claimed that the new port will be of great service to numerous vessels trading between Belgium and North and South America, as they will be able to call there to land passengers and also to coal without going up the 56 miles of river to Antwerp, as at present. It is reported that American and German lines will avail themselves of the facilities thus offered, and it is believed that the success of the new port is assured. Work on the breakwater has already been commenced, and the construction of the port of Heyst will be speedily taken in hand.

The ship canal will be 6 miles in length in a direct line from Heyst to Bruges, and will be capable of accommodating vessels of 6,000 tons register. It is hoped that it will become the recognized outlet for the products more especially of the Ghent and Charleroi districts.

New railway lines along the side of the canal will be laid at the cost of the State. With these improvements at the avant port of Heyst, the city of Bruges is looking forward to some substantial benefits from the enterprise.

Works of a like character are to be carried out in other ports by the Government. At Hoboken, to the south of Antwerp, new quays cover-

ing an area of 2,000 square meters, or 21,528 square feet, are to be constructed; the port of Ghent is to have new locks at Terneuzen; Ostend is to have her avant port enlarged and deepened, and Brussels will be satisfied with the conversion of the Willebroeck Canal into a navigable waterway for vessels of large draft from Scheldt, near Antwerp, to Brussels, where they can join the canal system which stretches away to the east of France and Alsace Lorraine.

The following table shows the total entries and departures of sailing ships and steamships of the ports of Belgium for the years 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1892, and 1893:

Year.	Entries.		Departures	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
1840 *a*	1,797	237,269	1,767	236,040
1850 *a*	2,165	314,797	2,214	323,745
1860	3,780	667,287	3,959	694,225
1870	5,658	1,575,293	5,406	1,534,013
1880	6,667	3,571,182	6,615	3,544,964
1890	7,357	5,785,080	7,381	5,803,168
1892	7,063	5,782,157	7,085	5,802,111
1893	7,022	6,001,968	6,977	5,939,502

a No steamships entered or departed in 1840 and 1850.

The following table shows the nationality of sailing ships and steamships that entered the port of Antwerp for 1894:

Nationality.	Sailing ships.		Steamships.		Total.	
	Number.	Registered tonnage.	Number.	Registered tonnage.	Number.	Registered tonnage.
United Kingdom	338	145,765	2,273	2,672,012	2,611	2,817,388
Germany	27	26,297	692	944,752	719	971,438
Belgium			309	425,686	309	425,686
Norway	86	53,459	173	93,868	259	147,327
Denmark	27	5,886	141	124,936	168	130,822
Sweden	24	8,701	136	82,816	160	91,517
France	15	5,791	110	105,342	125	111,133
Netherlands	8	7,526	93	95,959	101	103,485
Spain			46	38,859	46	38,859
Greece			26	45,939	26	45,939
Russia	16	7,665	25	20,797	41	28,452
Austria-Hungary			12	19,339	12	19,339
Portugal			12	7,100	12	7,100
United States	5	6,539	18	40,842	23	47,381
Italy	23	13,936	5	9,181	28	23,117

The table appended shows the total number of vessels entered and cleared from the port of Antwerp for the year 1894, classified by countries of origin or destination:

Country.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
Great Britain	1,734	1,260,393	2,401	2,139,562
Germany	418	617,753	346	419,173
Sweden	152	87,720	137	76,528
Norway	143	62,164	105	51,819
Roumania	181	299,160	2	3,991
France	183	126,675	116	71,506
Russia (Baltic ports)	181	160,207	72	57,851
Russia (Black Sea ports)	102	182,813	12	20,254
United States	218	503,228	223	510,632
Argentina	194	286,046	9	14,944
Argentina and Urugnay			102	199,891
British India	73	197,919	57	119,932
Australasia	44	101,886	30	71,003

COMMERCE.

The general results of the commercial movement between Belgium and foreign countries for 1893 are inferior to those of the preceding year.

GENERAL COMMERCE.

The total general imports and exports are 5,401,000,000 francs ($1,042,000,000). This is less than the value for 1892 by 61,000,000 francs ($11,700,000), or 1 per cent. The value of imported merchandise—that is, merchandise declared for consumption, for direct transit, or for warehouse—is 2,810,700,000 francs ($542,500,000). This is less by 7,000,000 francs ($1,350,000) than the corresponding value for 1892. The value of the general exports (Belgian and foreign products) was 2,590,300,000 francs ($499,900,000) in 1893, which was a decrease of 54,000,000 francs ($10,400,000), or 2 per cent, as compared with 1892.

SPECIAL COMMERCE.

The foreign products that Belgium has received for her own consumption and the products of her soil and industries sent out of the country in 1893 aggregated 2,931,000,000 francs ($565,700,000). This shows an increase of 25,100,000 francs ($4,840,000), or 1 per cent, over 1892. Of this amount 1,575,100,000 francs ($484,400,000) were imports and 1,355,900,000 francs ($261,700,000) exports. This shows an increase of 3 per cent in the imports and a decrease of 1 per cent in the exports, as compared with 1892.

The following table shows the value of imports and exports and the total trade of Belgium for 1893, as compared with 1892, 1891, and the three quinquennial periods, 1878–1882, 1883–1887, and 1888–1892.

Trade of Belgium.

[Values in millions of dollars.]

Year.	General commerce.			Special commerce.		
	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
Annual average of period 1878–1882	509	440	949	306	237	542
Annual average of period 1883–1887	530	499	1,029	274	243	517
Annual average of period 1888–1892	591	550	1,141	313	271	584
1891	602	549	1,151	347	293	640
1892	544	510	1,054	297	264	561
1893	542	500	1,042	304	262	566

FOREIGN TRADE.

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF BELGIUM.

The principal kinds of merchandise imported for consumption into and exported from Belgium, arranged in the order of values, for the year 1893 are shown in the following table:

Imports.	Value.	Exports.	Value.
Cereals of all kinds	$49,060,000	Cereals of all kinds	$19,090,000
Raw textile fibers	33,940,000	Raw textile fibers	15,970,000
Chemicals	14,010,000	Coal	14,040,000
Wood and lumber	13,060,000	Raw sugar	11,816,000
Oils and resins	12,960,000	Yarn of flax, and other vegetable fibers	9,870,000
Oil seeds	12,410,000	Yarn of wool, hair, etc	9,700,000
Coffee	10,350,000	Glassware	9,540,000
Hides and skins, raw	10,010,000	Chemicals	8,380,000
Mineral products, raw, not specified	8,180,000	Railway cars and street cars	7,690,000
Cattle, sheep, and swine	7,220,000	Hides, raw	7,100,000
Fats, animal	5,950,000	Iron in bars, sheets, etc	6,520,000
Woolen fabrics, exclusive of shawls	4,690,000	Zinc, raw	6,290,000
Wines	4,290,000	Machinery, not specified	5,960,000
Fish	4,080,000	Minerals, raw, not specified	5,900,000
Cotton fabrics	4,060,000	Meat	5,460,000
Flour, bran, and other mill products	3,940,000	Oil seeds	5,450,000
Coal	3,750,000	Steel, wrought	5,290,000
Paints and dyes	3,570,000	Fertilizers	4,380,000

The following tables show the share of the United States both in the import and export trade of Belgium in actual values and in percentages for the years 1889 to 1893, inclusive:

Imports into Belgium (special commerce).

[Values in millions of dollars.]

	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Total imports	300	323	347	297	304
Imports from the United States	22.8	30.3	38.6	39.9	26
Per cent of total imports obtained from the United States	7.6	9.4	11.1	13.4	8.5

Exports from Belgium (special commerce).

[Values in millions of dollars.]

	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Total exports	281	277	293	264	262
Exported to the United States	8.4	9.8	10.7	10.3	9.7
Per cent of total exports shipped to the United States	3	3.5	3.7	3.9	3.7

Special commerce of Belgium, 1884–1893.

Year.	Value of imports.	Value of exports.	Total value.
1884	$275,168,761	$258,133,533	$533,302,294
1885	259,980,168	231,600,664	491,580,832
1886	257,664,514	228,121,033	485,785,547
1887	276,363,039	239,440,543	515,803,582
1888	296,132,863	240,034,143	536,167,006
1889	300,380,955	281,495,511	581,876,466
1890	322,718,235	277,345,600	600,063,835
1891	347,364,261	293,173,426	640,537,687
1892	296,535,690	264,301,845	560,837,535
1893	304,001,819	261,697,389	565,699,208
Average	293,631,031	257,534,369	551,165,399

FOREIGN COMMERCE FOR THE YEAR 1894.

Detailed statistics for the year 1894 are not yet available, but the Moniteur Belge published in its issue of January 27, 1895, a table showing the quantities of the principal articles imported and exported (special commerce), together with the values, calculated on the basis of the unit values adopted for 1893. The following statement presents these preliminary figures for 1894 as compared with both the preliminary and the final figures for 1893, the values being reduced to dollars:

*Special commerce of Belgium.**

	1893.		1894 (preliminary figures).
	Preliminary figures.	Final figures.	
Imports	$263,947,000	$304,002,000	$263,889,000
Exports	225,096,000	261,697,000	219,711,000
Total special commerce	489,043,000	565,699,000	483,600,000

*At the head of the tables in the Moniteur Belge there is inserted a note to importers and exporters which is of wider than local application. They are requested to cooperate with the Government in securing accurate declarations of the kind, quantity, and value of products as well as of their actual source of supply and destination. "In fact," says this note, "commercial statistics swarm with inaccuracies due to defective declarations, and the Government has no means of rectifying them either as regards exportations in general or entries of merchandise exempt from duty."

The preliminary estimate of the total value of imports for 1894 is about the same as the corresponding figures for the preceding year, while the exports show a falling off of 2.4 per cent as compared with the preliminary estimate for 1893.

The imports of wheat, spelt, and maslin for 1894 exceeded those of the preceding year by more than 178,000 metric tons.

The following table shows the principal countries that contributed to this increase:

Imports of wheat, spelt, and maslin into Belgium.

[In metric tons of 2,204.62 pounds each.]

Country of supply.	1893.	1894.
Argentina	236,405	327,836
Roumania	279,765	365,994
Brazil	95.979	132,385
British India	17,052	53,573
Russia	40,207	63,454

The imports from the United States, on the other hand, decreased from 264,013 metric tons in 1893 to 155,000 metric tons in 1894. The following table shows the articles the export or import value of which for 1894 differed (either by excess or deficit) from that of 1893 by more than $772,000:

Differences in import values between 1894 and 1893.

Articles imported.	Increase in value in 1894 as compared with 1893.	Articles imported.	Decrease in value in 1894 as compared with 1893.
Wheat, spelt, and maslin	$5,153,000	Cattle, live	$3,242,000
Soda	2,393,000	Oil seeds, other than peanuts	1,486,000
Meats	1,988,000	Silks	1,351,000
Hops	1,216,000	Oats, maize, and buckwheat	965,000
Barley	926,000		
Wine	811,000		

Differences in export values between 1894 and 1893.

Articles exported.	Increase in value in 1894 as compared with 1893.	Articles exported.	Decrease in value in 1894 as compared with 1893.
Meats	$3,049,000	Sugar, raw	$5,018,000
Wrought steel	2,934,000	Flax	2,277,000
Yarn, of linen or other vegetable fiber	984,000	Yarn, woolen	1,679,000
Horses and colts	946,000	Silks	1,177,000
		Sugar, refined	1,004,000
		Coal	907,000
		Railway and street cars	907,000

CUSTOM-HOUSE REGULATIONS.

Destination of imported merchandise.—Conformably to article 120 of the general law of August 26, 1822, all merchandise is received as follows: (1) It is either *mise en consommation*—that is to say, it is delivered directly to the consignees after payment of duties, if there are any to be paid; (2) it is sent out of the country without being bonded, this being called "direct transit," or (3) it is returned to the bonded warehouse from which it was taken, either to be delivered for consumption or for exportation in transit.

Article 40 of the law of March 4, 1846, authorizes the delivery of certain kinds of merchandise under bond, which are destined to receive final preparation from the "finishing trade" (*main d'œuvre*) of the country and afterwards to be exported. Articles to which this is applied are considered from a statistical standpoint as *mise en consommation*, provisionally exempt from duty, and they figure among actual imports under their original denomination. When they leave the country, after their naturalization, they are considered the same as Belgian products, and in the export trade they are indicated by their new name, if they have any.

General commerce.—Embraces all importations of merchandise that enter Belgium, without regard to their subsequent destination, whether bonded for consumption or for transit, and all exportations of merchandise which is forwarded to foreign countries without distinction, whether of Belgian or foreign origin.

Special commerce.—Importation comprises all importations of merchandise declared for interior consumption at the time of its entry or when they were taken out of bond.

Exportation comprises all native products as well as foreign merchandise, which has been nationalized by the payment of duties or upon which the duties have been remitted and which were originally declared for consumption.

It is often the case that in order to escape the formalities inherent to the transit of imported merchandise merchants declare that such is for consumption and that it is free of duty or that the duty is very light, but subsequently declare such merchandise for exportation, so that the amount of special commerce for import and export is very much increased at the expense of the transit trade. Thus grain, rawhides, animal products, gums, and other merchandise free of duty destined for transit are at first declared for consumption and afterwards for export, and on their exportation there is nothing to show from what country they were originally imported, and the customs officials treat them as Belgian products.

Official valuation.—If all merchandise were assessed by the customs tariff it would be possible to know the total commerce by the addition of the declared values; but certain articles being subject to certain duties, such as by weight, number, or by measurement, it has been found necessary to adopt official valuations—that is, the average values—which are reissued every year.

Method of valuation.—A distinction as regards valuation is made between imports subject to ad valorem duties and other goods imported or exported. In the case of ad valorem duties, statistics are drawn up according to the values which have served as a basis for the calculation of the duties. For others a commission of five members, availing themselves of the bourse and official quotations and of information supplied by the chambers of commerce, fixes average values, and without regard

to countries of origin or destination. For imports the official values comprise the first cost and cost of transport to the frontier, but not customs duties or excise; for exports, they consist of the cost at the place of production and the cost of transport to the frontier. The quantities of goods subject to duty are strictly scrutinized; but for goods free of duty, imports and exports, the declarations of the parties interested are generally accepted. When the gross weight is given an official tare is deducted. In the case of goods subject to ad valorem duty the administration has a right of preemption at the declared value increased 10 per cent when the importers disagree with the fiscal authorities and are unwilling to risk a reference of the dispute to experts.

Countries of production and destination.—As a knowledge of the commercial relations of Belgium with foreign countries is important, the authorities of that country endeavor to obtain exact data as to the origin and destination of all imports and exports and to conceal nothing in relation to them. As to imports and exports by interior communications, the custom-house officials have no means of ascertaining or of preventing false declarations being made, and content themselves with those that are presented, so that errors can not be corrected or rectified. The truth is that the trade of Belgium with certain foreign countries may be more or less greater than is indicated by official publications of the custom-house returns. Thus the transit trade with Austria and Switzerland may be credited to the German Commercial Association, and that of France may comprise a part of the Belgian trade with Spain, Italy, and Switzerland.

TARIFF.

The Government of Belgium promulgated the modifications of its customs tariff on the 14th of July, 1895. The changes are in the interest of protection and are made between the case where the duty is levied on an article which the country can produce in sufficient quantities for its own consumption and in the case where it is applied to a product of which there is a scarcity in the country, in order, as it was contended in the Belgian Legislature, that the home production will develop under the influence of the duty imposed and internal competition will take the place or will be the complement of external competition. It was declared that the changes were to be called a democratic conception of protection, as it was claimed that it will result in a greater amount of labor and of wages without appreciably affecting the consumer. The duty is added to the price of the commodity and its home production is favorably influenced, while its place in foreign markets is less easily retained. This policy will fetter the exportation of the country, which consumes only one-half of its metals, one-twentieth of its glass products, and one-third of its flax, but by the changes made it is thought that agriculture will profit.

In order to insure butter against unfair competition measures are to be taken to facilitate the detection of artificial produce fraudulently sold as butter, but as margarin is in greater demand every year and contains nothing injurious to the health its manufacture is not interfered with, but is encouraged both for home consumption and for exportation. A customs duty of 20 francs, or $3.86, and an excise duty of 5 francs, or $0.965, per 100 kilograms, or 220.462 pounds, are imposed, the latter intended to offer facilities for its examination from a hygienic point of view.

To encourage its home manufacture a duty of $3.86 per 26.417 gallons is levied upon stearin, margarin, olein, and oleo (such as artificial lard and mixtures of oleomargarin and oil), besides which there is a duty of $1.93 per 26.417 gallons on cream and of $0.386 per 26.417 gallons on milk destined for the manufacture of margarin.

As a further protection to the miller and the farmer, "and not to increase the price of bread," a duty is imposed on oats of $0.579 per 220.46 pounds, on oatmeal of $0.772 per 220.46 pounds, and on all other flours of $0.386 per 220.46 pounds.

Increased duties are imposed on Italian paste, poultry, paté de foie gras, preserved meats, varieties of iron, and many other articles.

There are ten articles in the newly modified tariff.

Article 1 provides that "the Government is authorized to exempt sea vessels from light-house tax." This law is not applicable to vessels in destination or coming from Belgian ports where quay, port, or dock taxes collected for the benefit of the commune exceed 50 centimes ($0.0965) in principal and an additional per ton net gauge. The withdrawal of the exemption will be, if there be occasion, pronounced by royal decree, which will take effect six months after its insertion in the Moniteur Belge, the official gazette.

Article 2 contains the modifications of the duties on certain articles of merchandise. Those relating to agriculture and iron with some others are printed in tariff table and marked with an asterisk. The duties on cotton manufactures, wearing apparel, hosiery, leather goods, mercery, and hardware, perfumery, watches, supplies for watches, slate, tissues, and others are modified by tariff and in some cases lessened. Whatever reductions result from this article are only applicable to merchandise coming from countries which accord to Belgian merchandise the treatment of most-favored nations or who have commercial relations with Belgium.

No export or transit duties are levied in Belgium.

TABLE OF IMPORT DUTIES ON CERTAIN ARTICLES.

The customs tariff, with the modifications, being article 2 of the law of July 14, 1895.

[The modifications are indicated by an asterisk.]

No.	Articles.	Unit.	Rate of duty.
1	STARCH AND FECULA, NOT ALIMENTARY		Free.
2	LIVE ANIMALS:		
	Bovine genus—*a*		
	Bulls and bullocks	Per 2.20462 pounds (live weight).	$0.0077
	Oxen, steers, and calves with milk teeth *b*	do	.0097
	Cows and heifers	do	.0058
	Ovine genus—		
	Rams, ewes, and wethers	Per head	.386
	Lambs *c*	do	.193
	All other *d*		Free.
	a The importation and transit of bovine animals of the gray race of the steppes are prohibited. (Decree of the minister of the interior of May 4, 1877.)		
	b When calves have lost their milk teeth they are considered and are dutiable as "bullocks, steers, and heifers."		
	c Lambs not having adult teeth are only considered as such.		
	d All live animals not elsewhere mentioned are included in this number, with the exception of fish, which are specially classed in the tariff.		
	NOTE.—The game law of February 28, 1882, and the royal decree of August 14, 1889, modified by the decrees of September 5, 1889, and April 28, 1891, impose special restrictions on the conveyance of game and insectivorous birds.		
4	*BUTTER AND MARGARIN: *a*		
	Butter, fresh and salted	Per 220.462 pounds	$3.86
	Margarin, and other artificial butters *b*	do	3.86
	a Butter, fresh and salted, as well as margarin, and other artificial butters can, until otherwise ordered, be imported free of duty.		
	b By margarin should be understood all substances or preparations having a similarity to natural butter and which have not been exclusively manufactured from milk. By artificial butters should be understood all mixtures of comestible greases (stearin, olein, margarin) and oil, such as artificial lard, mixtures of oleomargarine and oil, etc.		
	NOTE.—In virtue of a decree dated August 5, 1895, the duties established in Nos. 4 and 16 of the tariff applicable to butter, fresh and salted, and to margarin and other artifical butters, as well as to cream and milk intended for the manufacture of margarin and other artificial butters, shall be collected on and after August 20, 1895.		
5	BEER AND OTHER FERMENTED BEVERAGES NOT SPECIALLY CLASSED (including all fermented beverages, with the exception of vinegar and wine):		
	Beer—		
	In casks	Per 26.417 gallons	.965
	In bottles	do	1.351
	Other fermented beverages—		
	In casks	do	1.158
	In bottles	do	1.351
6	WOOD:		
	Oak and walnut wood	Per 35.314 cubic feet.	0.193
	Building and cabinetmakers' wood, other than oak and walnut—*a*		
	Unbarked or not sawn	do	0.193
	Sawn	do	1.158
	Planed (including unrolled wood (*bois deroulés*) and boards, grooved or tongued).	do	1.737
	Poles and pieces of unbarked and unsawn wood having a circumference of less than 75 centimeters at the thickest end. *b*, *a*	do	.193
	a Until December 31, 1895, the duty on building and cabinetmakers' wood, other than oak and walnut, shall remain fixed as follows:		
	Unbarked or not sawn ... per 35.314 cubic feet .. $0.579		
	Sawn, more than 5 centimeters in thickness ... do 1.158		
	Sawn, 5 centimeters in thickness and less ... do 1.737		
	Until the same date poles and pieces of unbarked or unsawn wood having a circumference of less than 75 centimeters at the thickest end may be imported free of duty.		
	b Pieces of wood, unbarked or not sawn, of less than 1 meter 25 centimeters in length and less than 75 centimeters in circumference at the thickest end, shall be admitted free of duty on condition it be proved to the satisfaction of the administration that the wood arrived at and has been employed in the manufactory of paper pulp and wood fibers toward which the wood is conveyed.		
	Other wood (including especially wood other than oak and walnut split for staves, clapboards, or cases (even that shaped with the ax or adz, but not sawn), also firewood).		Free.

TABLE OF IMPORT DUTIES ON CERTAIN ARTICLES—continued.

The customs tariff, with the modifications, being article 2 of the law of July 14, 1895—Cont'd.

No.	Articles.	Unit.	Rate of duty.
	WOOD—Continued.		
	Manufactures of wood—		
	Brooms, common		Free.
	Casks	Ad valorem	10 p.ct.
	Other manufactures (including especially basket wares; also articles not coming under a more favorable number of the tariff and not belonging to goods included in "Small wares," "Hardware," or "Furniture").	do	10 p.ct.
7	CANDLES (including tapers and wax candles)	do	10 p.ct.
8	*COCOA:		
	In beans, shells, and cocoa butter		Free.
	Prepared (ground, chocolate, racahout, etc.)	Per 220.462 pounds	$9.65
9	COFFEE:		
	Not roasted	do	1.93
	Roasted	do	2.509
10	CAOUTCHOUC:		
	Raw (including spun caoutchouc and caoutchouc in sheets, neither cut out nor combined with tissue).		Free.
	Manufactured (including articles not coming under a more favorable number of the tariff and not belonging to goods included in "Small wares," "Hardware," or "Furniture").	Ad valorem	10 p.ct.
12	ASHES		Free.
13	COAL, COKE, CHARCOAL, AND PEAT		Free.
14	*VEGETABLES, CANNED, OR OTHERWISE PRESERVED: *a*		
	Preserved with spirits (including preparations containing at the same time both alcohol and sugar).	Per 220.462 pounds	$15.44
	*Preserved with sugar (including candied vegetables, pastries, and sweetened fruit juices containing less than 8 per cent of alcohol, and all preparations, even nonalimentary, manufactured with sugar, not specially classed in another number of the tariff; biscuits, candied or preserved fruits, marmalade, jellies, jams, and fruit pulp containing more than 20 per cent but not more than 50 per cent of sugar. *See also* "Saccharin" and "Refined sugar").	do	5.79
	Vegetables preserved in tins or bottles	do	2.895
	*Preserves, other (including especially preserves and preparations, not specially mentioned, with vinegar; fruit juices (not sugared) containing less than 8 per cent of alcohol, licorice juice; cheeses (other than common cheeses, soft and white); biscuits (with the exception of ship biscuits and other preparations of pure flour, which are dutiable as bread, under the head of "Cereals, other, and their products"); candied fruit, marmalades, jellies, jams, and fruit pulp, prepared without alcohol or sugar or not containing more than 20 per cent of sugar).	do	2.316
	a Canned vegetables containing not more than one-half of 1 per cent of saccharin are assimilated to alimentary preserves manufactured with the aid of sugar. Their classification is determined, if necessary, according to the sweetening power of saccharin as compared with sugar. (*See also* "Saccharin" and "Refined sugar.")		
16	*CREAM AND MILK:		
	*Cream intended for the manufacture of margarin or other artificial butters.	Per 26.417 gallons	1.93
	*Milk intended for the manufacture of margarin or other artificial butters.	do	.386
	Cream and milk, other *a*		Free.
	a The admission free of duty of cream and milk imported in quantities exceeding 10,567 and 52,835 quarts respectively, shall be subject to the regulations deemed necessary by the minister of finance to prevent fraud.		
17	ARTICLES OF FOOD NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED		Free.
	Under this number are included rice in the straw, or unhusked and husked rice; alimentary fecula; flour other than that proceeding from the grinding of grains and cereals; salt, raw and refined; common cheeses, soft and white; eggs; vegetables of all kinds, fresh or dried (even preserved, when imported otherwise than in tins or bottles and prepared with the aid of substances exempt from customs and excise duties); potatoes; chicory; roots, green or dried, etc.		
18	RAGS, LINEN AND OTHER		Free.
19	DRUGS		Free.
	The tariff classifies under this head, in addition to the parts of vegetables employed in medicine, medicinal extracts and pharmaceutical preparations (balsams, salves, plasters, pills, etc.). Medicinal lozenges (unless they contain a toxic or venomous principle) are dutiable as other lozenges ("Canned vegetables," "Saccharin," or "Refined sugar"); pharmaceutical sirups pay a duty as "Refined sugar." Alcoholic pharmaceutical preparations and medicinal wines are classed as "Alcoholic liquids, other." Roasted chicory, prepared and ground, is classified with "Drugs."		

TABLE OF IMPORT DUTIES ON CERTAIN ARTICLES—continued.

The customs tariff, with the modifications, being article 2 of the law of July 14, 1895—Cont'd.

No.	Articles.	Unit.	Rate of duty.
20	PACKAGES WHICH HAVE BEEN USED AND WHICH ARE NOT THE OBJECT OF A COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION.		Free.
21	FERTILIZERS		Free.
22	SPICES AND FLAVORS:		
	*Saffron	Per 220.462 pounds.	$96.50
	*Truffles	do	57.90
	Other spices (including especially cinnamon, cloves, mace, nutmegs, pepper, pimento, vanilla, as well as mustard and other prepared spices).	Ad valorem	15 p.ct.
23	NETS AND OTHER UTENSILS FOR MARITIME FISHING, such as hooks, cutlasses, blocks, tubs, axes, etc., necessary for fishermen.		Free.
25	FRUITS:		
	Apples		Free.
	Almonds	Per 220.462 pounds.	$6.755
	Lemons, oranges, and figs	do	1.737
	Prunes—		
	Imported in casks of at least 396.8316 pounds or in sacks of at least 176 3696 pounds, gross weight, without interior packages.	do	2.895
	* Imported otherwise	do	4.825
	Raisins—		
	Currants, dried *a*	do	3.86
	Other	do	4.825
	Not elsewhere specified—		
	*Fresh:		
	*Pineapples (including those preserved without alcohol or sugar, or not containing more than 20 per cent of sugar).	do	5.79
	*Grapes (including crushed grapes and grape cake) *b*	do	5.79
	*Other (including those preserved without alcohol or sugar, or not containing more than 20 per cent of sugar):		
	*Imported in cases, boxes, jars, baskets, or other packages of a weight of 6.61386 pounds or less.	do	5.79
	*Imported otherwise	do	2.316
	*Dried (including all dried fruits not mentioned in the tariff. *See also* "Canned vegetables" and "Refined sugar").	Ad valorem	10 p.ct.
	a Dried currants imported in bulk, in sacks of at least 100 kilograms, or in barrels of at least 200 kilograms, destined for the manufacture of wine, shall be admitted exempt from import duty on compliance with the conditions stipulated in the royal decree of July 18, 1895.		
	b The importation of table and wine grapes and of grape cake is subject to certain conditions of packing. (Royal decree of September 15, 1885, taken in virtue of the law of May 6, 1882.)		
26	*CEREALS AND THEIR PRODUCTS:		
	*Oats	Per 220.462 pounds.	$0.579
	*Flour (including semolina and groats)—		
	*Oat	do	.772
	*Other *a*	do	.386
	*Malt *b*	do	.2895
	*Alimentary pastes (vermicelli, macaroni, Italian pastes, etc.)	do	.772
	Other, and their products *c*		Free.
	a Under this denomination should be understood the grindings of grain and cereals of all kinds (wheat, spelt, maslin, rye, barley, rice, maize, buckwheat, etc.).		
	b By malt should not only be understood germinated barley, but likewise germinated grain of every kind.		
	c This category comprises cereals (wheat, spelt, maslin, rye, maize, buckwheat, barley, pearled or not, etc.), with the exception of oats; bran, and all alimentary preparations not specially classed (bread, ship biscuits, etc.), made from flour or fecula, and not included in articles classed as "Canned vegetables."		
28	OILS (including vegetable oils not comprised in "Perfumery," "Groceries," or "Drugs").		Free.
31	YEAST OR LEAVEN	Per 220.462 pounds.	$1.93
	Yeast or leaven may, until otherwise ordered, be imported free of duty.		
32	ALCOHOLIC LIQUIDS:		
	Brandies of all kinds, in casks—		
	Of 50° strength or less of Gay-Lussac's alcohometer, at a temperature of 50° F. *a*	Per 26.417 gallons	19.30
	For every degree above 50° *a*	do	.386
	In bottles, and liqueurs of whatever strength	do	38.60
	Other alcoholic liquids (including preparations with alcohol, and alcohol liquids not used as beverages and not entering in the category of "Canned fruits with spirits" or in that of "Alcoholic perfumery," especially dyes, colors, and varnishes).	do	25.862
	a Fractions up to five-tenths of a degree are ignored; larger fractions are counted as a degree.		

TABLE OF IMPORT DUTIES ON CERTAIN ARTICLES—continued.

The customs tariff, with the modifications, being article 2 of the law of July 14, 1895—Cont'd.

No.	Articles.	Unit.	Rate of duty.
33	MACHINES, IMPLEMENTS *a*, AND TOOLS: *b*		
	Of cast iron	Per 220.462 pounds	$0.386
	Of iron or steel	do	.772
	Of wood	Ad valorem	10 p.ct.
	Of copper or any other material *c*	Per 220.462 pounds	$2.316
	a Detached parts of machines are dutiable as machines, provided they be so finished that they can be adapted to a determined machine without further workmanship. Machines or parts of machines subject to different duties are classed according to the weight of the predominating material. Carriages of all kinds for railways and tramways are also classed as machines.		
	b The denomination "tools" only includes tools employed for exercising a trade.		
	c Machines or parts of machines, and tools of copper, caoutchouc, etc., can be declared as "Manufactures of copper, of caoutchouc, etc.," should the importer deem these rates more favorable than those of "Machines, implements, and tools."		
35	ANIMAL SUBSTANCES, RAW, NOT SPECIALLY CLASSED (including wax, raw; greases; animal oils (especially fish oils); olein; stearin; oleic and stearic acids; horse and other hair, rough, curled, or otherwise prepared, and cordage of hair. *See also* "Butter and margarin").		Free.
36	MINERAL SUBSTANCES, CRUDE, NOT SPECIALLY CLASSED (including all kinds of ores (and embracing iron ores and iron and steel filings) and all metals (not worked) not mentioned under the head "Metals" and the other mineral substances not elsewhere mentioned in the tariff, especially lime and sulphur).		Free.
37	TEXTILE MATERIALS, RAW (including cotton, wool, flax, hemp, silk, and all other textile materials, raw or combed).		Free.
39	METALS: *a*		
	Iron—		
	Old (scrap iron or steel)		Free.
	Cast, crude	Per 220.462 pounds	$0.0386
	Cast, worked *b*	do	.386
	Puddled	do	.0579
	Hammered, drawn, or rolled	do	.193
	Worked *b*	do	.772
	Steel—		
	Rough cast	do	.0579
	Cast:		
	Slabs and blooms *c*	do	.0772
	Billets and largets *d*	do	.1158
	In bars, sheets, or wire	do	.193
	Worked *b*	do	.772
	Tin plate—		
	Sheet iron, tinned, unworked		Free.
	Sheet iron, tinned, worked *b*	Ad valorem	10 p.ct.
	Iron coated with copper, nickel, lead, or zinc (galvanized), unworked.	Per 220.462 pounds	$0.579
	Tin, lead, and zinc—		
	Unworked, including tin, lead, and zinc hammered, drawn, or rolled.		Free.
	Worked *b*	Ad valorem	10 p.ct.
	a Metals not mentioned under this head (such as aluminium) enter when unworked among "Mineral substances, crude, not specially classed;" when worked, they are included either in "Small wares" or "Hardware," or in any other class assigned to them by their special designation ("Scientific instruments," "Machines," etc.).		
	b Metal articles coming under the head of "Small wares," "Hardware," or "Furniture" are not included, nor those which by reason of their destination can be classed under a more favorable number ("Scientific instruments;" "Machines, implements, and tools;" "Watches, and fittings for watches," etc.).		
	c Blooms of less than 40 centimeters of contour shall be considered as billets.		
	d Largets exceeding 25 centimeters in width and 2 meters 25 centimeters in length shall be classed under the head of "Steel, in bars, sheets, or wire."		
	NOTE—Small quantities of bronze, copper, or nickel coins, not imported for traffic and which form part of the pocket money of persons crossing the frontier, may be freely admitted without customs formalities.		
41	* HONEY	Per 220.462 pounds	3.474
45	* GINGERBREAD	do	3.474
47	PERFUMERY:		
	Alcoholic perfumery *a*	Ad valorem	15 p.ct.
	Other	do	15 p.ct.
	a This duty can not, however, be inferior to that levied on "Alcoholic liquids, other."		

TABLE OF IMPORT DUTIES ON CERTAIN ARTICLES—continued.

The customs tariff, with the modifications, being article 2 of the law of July 14, 1895—Cont'd.

No.	Articles.	Unit.	Rate of duty.
48	HIDES AND SKINS:		
	Raw and parchment		Free.
	Goat and sheep skins, tanned with the hair, and kid skins tanned with the hair.		Free.
	Skins, dyed, varnished, lacquered, or morocco leather, and prepared furs.	Per 220.462 pounds	$5.79
	Otherwise prepared, including tanned and curried hides and skins.	do	2.895
	Manufactured *a*	Ad valorem	10 p.ct.
	a All kinds of articles of leather and skins not coming under the head of "Morocco leather wares," or which can not be classed, owing to their destination, under a more favorable head of the tariff ("Machines, implements, and tools," etc.); furs, worked; saddlers' and shoemakers' wares, gloves, etc. (*See also* "Small wares.")		
50	FISH:		
	Not elsewhere specified (including fresh, dried, salted, or smoked fish; full shellfish of all kinds; waste or offal of fish; also preserved fish imported otherwise than in cans, pots, cruets, or other similar receptacles and prepared with the aid of substances exempt from customs and excise dutics.		Free.
	Preserved:		
	In cans, pots, cruets, or other similar receptacles, including the weight of receptacles containing the goods. (The importer, however, may claim for such receptacles a reduction of 15 per cent as legal tare allowance.)	Per 220.492 pounds	$2.895
	Imported otherwise, and prepared with the aid of substances subject to customs or excise duties.	do	2.316
56	HAY AND FODDER		Free.
57	RESINS AND BITUMENS (comprising petroleum and other mineral oils).		Free.
59	SOAPS:		
	Perfumed (toilet soap)	Ad valorem	12 p.ct.
	Other	Per 220.462 pounds	$1.158
60	SUGAR:		
	Refined sugar—*a*		
	Candy:		
	First class[1]	do	11.514
	Second class[1]	do	10.44
	In loaves[1]	do	9.76
	Powdered white sugar and other similar products[1] *b*	do	9.76
	Raw sugar—		
	Of beet, above No. 18[1]	do	9.76
	Of cane, above No. 18 *c*		Free.
	Of cane or beet:		
	First class, from No. 15 to No. 18, inclusive		Free.
	Second class, from No. 10 to No. 14, inclusive		Free.
	Third class, from No. 7 to No. 9, inclusive		Free.
	Fourth class, below No. 7		Free.
	Sirup and molasses—*c*		
	Uncrystallizable molasses, proceeding from the manufacture or refining of sugar, containing less than 50 per cent of saccharine richness.	Per 220.462 pounds	$3.474
	Sirups and molasses imported for distillation *d*		Free.
	a Refined sugars, termed "*vergeoises*," cassonade, or bastard melados; molasses containing 50 per cent or more of saccharine richness, and manufactured sirups containing crystallizable sugar, are classified with "Raw sugars" for the payment of duties.		
	b By similar products are meant caramel or burnt sugars; sirups other than those produced in sugar factories and refineries; glucose, sugar plums, pastilles, lozenges, nougat, jujube, marshmallow lozenges, and other similar confections of sugar. Among the latter are principally included cakes and sticks of barley and apple sugar, licorice pastes and sweets called gumballs, biscuits, candied and preserved fruits, marmalade, jellies, jams, and fruit pulp containing more than 50 per cent of sugar, macaroons, marchpanes, meringues, and other preparations of sugar containing neither flour nor fecula, or only in small quantities. Products similar to those above mentioned, prepared with the aid of saccharin, are subject to the same duty when the saccharin they contain does not exceed one-half of 1 per cent. (*See also* "Saccharin.")		
	c Raw sugars are subject to the following excise duties per 220.462 pounds:		
	Of cane, above No. 18[1] $9.76		
	Of cane or beet—		
	First class, from No. 15 to No. 18, inclusive[1] 9.17		
	Second class, from No. 10 to No. 14, inclusive[1] 8.79		
	Third class, from No. 7 to No. 9, inclusive[1] 7.90		
	Fourth class, below No. 7[1] 7.03		
	d The exemption from duties is subject to the conditions mentioned in the law of July 18, 1887 (articles 111 to 119).		

[1] These duties are subjected to a surtax of 15 per cent.

TABLE OF IMPORT DUTIES ON CERTAIN ARTICLES—continued.

The customs tariff, with the modifications, being article 2 of the law of July 14, 1895—Cont'd.

No.	Articles.	Unit.	Rate of duty.
61	TOBACCO:		
	Tobacco not manufactured, stalks, and extracts of tobacco (praiss).	Per 220.462 pounds..	$13.51
	Manufactured—		
	Cigars and cigarettes	do	57.90
	Other, including stripped tobacco	do	19.30
62	DYES AND COLORS (including dyewoods, ground or not)		Free.
	Dyes and colors with alcohol are classed as "Other alcoholic liquids," and common colors in cakes and in boxes as "Small wares."		
63	TEA	Per 220.462 pounds..	$17.37
65	VEGETABLES AND VEGETABLE SUBSTANCES, NOT SPECIALLY CLASSED.		Free.
	Ranged under this head are all living plants, natural flowers, and all other vegetable substances not included under any other head of the tariff, especially beet roots, tanbarks, seeds, hops, and oil cakes. The importation and transit of vines, shoots, with or without roots, branches, etc., dried or green, are prohibited. By exception, plants, shoots, and branches of vine (green), coming from regions not infected with phylloxera, can be introduced into the country on permission from the minister of agriculture, industry, and public works, and on compliance with certain formalities. The importation and transit of other vegetables are also subject to certain regulations. (Royal decrees of September 15, 1885, and of December 8, 1889, issued in virtue of the law of May 6, 1882.)		
67	*MEAT:		
	Fresh meat—*a*		
	Whole or half carcasses	Per 220.462 pounds..	$2.895
	Other, not elsewhere specified	do	5.79
	Game *b*	do	2.895
	*Poultry *b*	do	5.79
	*Pâtés de foie gras *c*	do	11.58
	*Preserved—		
	*Game or poultry, in tins, pots, cruets, or other similar receptacles. *c*	do	5.79
	*Other meat:		
	*Simply cooked, smoked, or salted *d*		Free.
	*Otherwise prepared (including extracts of meat) *c*	Per 220.462 pounds..	$2.895
	Imported otherwise than in tins, pots, cruets, or other similar receptacles, and prepared with the aid of substances subject to a customs or excise duty:		
	Of game or poultry	do	2.316
	Of other meat (including extracts of meat)	do	2.316
	Not specially enumerated (including bacon, as well as meat extracts and preserves of game, poultry, and meat imported otherwise than in tins, pots, cruets, or other similar receptacles, and prepared with the aid of substances exempt from customs or excise duties).		Free.
	a Under this number is included not only fresh meat of animals of the bovine and ovine races, but also that of other animals, especially of pigs (with the exception of bacon), of horses, etc. Meat, game, and poultry preserved by freezing come under the head of "Fresh meat." Fresh butcher's meat, other than mutton, shall only be admitted in whole, half, or fore-quarter carcasses and on condition that the lungs be still attached.		
	b Only live game and live poultry are free of duty and classed under the head of "All other live animals." The game law of February 28, 1882, imposes special restrictions on the conveyance of game.		
	c Including the weight of the receptacles containing the goods. The importers may, however, claim for such receptacles a legal tare allowance of 15 per cent.		
	d By meat simply cooked should be understood roasted and boiled meat, as well as meat cooked in any other manner.		
68	VINEGAR AND ACETIC ACID: *a*		
	Vinegar and liquid acetic acid containing—		
	Eight per cent or less of pure acetic acid	Per 26.417 gallons...	2.895
	Above 8 per cent and less than 40 per cent of pure acetic acid. *b*	do	14.475
	Forty per cent and above of pure acetic acid *b*	do	36.188
	Acetic acid, crystallized	Per 220.462 pounds..	36.188
	a Foreign acetic acids intended for industrial uses can be admitted free of import duty by complying with the conditions indicated in the ministerial decree of June 13, 1887, regulation 2025.		
	b Importers of vinegar and of liquid acetic acids containing more than 8 per cent of pure acetic acid shall be allowed to add water to the same in the public warehouse, so as to reduce the acetic strength to 8 per cent or less, and render them subject to the minimum duty.		

TABLE OF IMPORT DUTIES ON CERTAIN ARTICLES—continued.

The customs tariff, with the modifications, being article 2 of the law of July 14, 1895—Cont'd.

No.	Articles.	Unit.	Rate of duty.
69	WINES ..... Wines are subject to an excise duty of $4.439 per 26.417 gallons. Wines containing more than 18 per cent of alcohol shall pay, in addition to the excise duty levied on wines, the import duty on the quantity of alcohol exceeding 18 per cent.	.....	Free.

Article 3 provides as follows:

SEC. 1. There may be collected a special duty on alimentary products in case similar indigenous products are subject to special laws and regulations relative to falsification.

SEC. 2. The Government will determine the amount of this duty, which will not exceed the cost of verification and analysis.

SEC. 3. It is authorized to prohibit the entry of products mentioned in section 1 if they do not fill the conditions exacted for the sale of similar products made or prepared in the country.

By article 4 the Government is authorized to permit, under bond for duties, the temporary removal, in partial or total exemption of duties, of merchandise destined for the finishing trade of the Kingdom.

By article 5 there is fixed upon the manufacture of margarin and other artificial butters an excise tax of 5 francs ($0.965) per 100 kilograms (220 pounds), and it is provided that there may be accorded the discharge of the excise tax on exportation.

Article 6 requires any person owning a factory for the manufacture of margarin or other artificial butters, or vessels or utensils forming a complete appliance serving to manufacture margarin or artificial butters, to make a declaration at the office of the receiver of excise taxes of the province, and also requires that owners of manufactories of oleomargarine or melters of suets must submit to the same formality.

Article 7 requires manufacturers described in the preceding article to facilitate the administration agents in the exercise of their functions. They must furnish the agents with means of ascertaining the quantity of raw materials utilized and the amount obtained, and permit them to take necessary samples. They are, besides, obliged to prove the origin of the raw material.

The provisions of article 8 are as follows:

SEC. 1. The Government is authorized to regulate the collection and discharge of the excise tax and to determine the régime of inspection of melting houses (for tallow).

SEC. 2. The decrees taken in virtue of the preceding disposition will be submitted to the legislative chambers.

Article 9 provides as follows:

SEC. 1. All stratagem having the aim or effect to frustrate the collection of the excise is punishable by a fine of 2,000 francs ($386).

SEC. 2. All manufacture of margarin or artificial butter made without declaration, otherwise than in vessels designed for this usage in the declaration of work, is punishable by a fine of 5,000 francs ($965).

SEC. 3. Independently of the confiscation of the utensils and of an imprisonment of from three months to two years, the fine mentioned in the preceding paragraph is doubled when the misdemeanor is committed in a clandestine manufactory, or if it is a question of a manufactory legally established elsewhere than in the locality where the vessels described in the declaration of business are found.

SEC. 4. If a manufacturer of margarin or artificial butter works without having paid or guaranteed the duties, or if he is committed for infraction of a fact coming under the application of one or the other of sections 2 and 3 of the present article, the Government may, if it judges necessary for the security of the duties due and fines incurred, seize and take away, by process issued by the president of the tribunal, all the vessels and utensils in the factory.

SEC. 5. Other infringements of articles 5 to 7 of the present law, as well as infringements of decrees taken in virtue of article 8, are punished by a fine of 1,000 francs ($193).

SEC. 6. Independent of penalties mentioned in the present article, the payment of duty is always exacted.

Article 10 provides that the Government will fix by royal decree the date on which the various provisions of the law will go into effect.

MERCANTILE CREDITS.

In Ghent there are two kinds of credit, viz, goods and banker's credit. Goods credit is generally given to the small manufacturers who have to invest their capital in machinery. This credit is represented by the plant, and can be made good to a certain extent. It is also granted to the retailers, who account for its amount by the sums that are due to them, and for which they in their turn have to give credit to the purchaser.

Banker's credit is allowed to the manufacturer and merchant. If they bear a good character, and are known as solvent, they are advanced funds on their signature. People as a rule are adverse to contracting debts and are reluctant to borrow money. There are no usury laws, and money can be loaned at any rate of interest, which varies from 3 to 6 per cent. The accounts between business people are charged equally 5 per cent, as a rule. On bank accounts the interest charged varies according to the rate of interest of the Banque Nationale der Belgique which averages from 3 to 4½ per cent. Other bankers usually charge 1 per cent more than the Banque Nationale. Rapid fortunes and sudden failures are exceptional. Wealth can not be acquired quickly on account of the great production, which gives rise to keen competition, and the surplus of the production has to be exported under difficulties arising from the many tariffs of foreign nations to which it is exported. Fortunes are laboriously acquired, and render the owners of them cautious of speculations and squandering, and rapid losses of fortunes are very rare.

The following is the practice on the Antwerp Bourse:

Exports.—Cash payments or credits on delivery. The delivery of merchandise depends entirely on the nature of goods and on the purchasers, whether the latter are established in Belgium or in foreign countries. In Belgian export houses the usual terms are cash, viz,

promptly twenty or thirty days from date of invoice or against shipping documents, which last mode of payment is generally adopted. If credit is absolutely necessary the rate is always high, from ½ to 2 per cent additional when the purchasers are rated commercial firms of the first class, and occasionally as much as 5 per cent, and even more, for smaller and less safe firms. In exceptional cases only is a deposit demanded, and the amount is relatively small and not sufficient to cover loss if contract be not executed. Prepayments are very seldom made, and when required no interest is allowed. There are many articles of which the prices are net; others have a trade discount or discounts, and these vary extensively even for the same article and market.

Imports.—The following are the conditions of sale of the several specified articles of import:

Cereals.—If sold, cost, or cost and freight, or cost, freight, and insurance, the terms of payment are: (1) Three months' banker's acceptance from date of bill of lading against shipping documents; (2) cash in exchange for shipping documents; (3) cash on arrival of the vessel, less discount, at the rate of the Banque Nationale for the unexpired term of three months; (4) or for grain sold after arrival the terms are at thirty days from day of sale, with reciprocal faculty to pay, or to be paid, cash, less one-half of 1 per cent discount.

Wool.—For shipment: (1) Ninety days' sight; (2) if sold after arrival, payment cash, less interest, at the rate of Banque Nationale, for twenty days, or unexpired term of twenty days from date of sale; (3) if sold by public auction, goods to be received within ten days, payment cash, less interest, at the rate of Banque Nationale, for unexpired term of ten days.

Rice.—For shipment or shipped: (1) Cash against shipping documents; (2) sold after arrival, payment at thirty days from the date of sale, less 2 per cent discount.

Hides.—Shipped or to be shipped: (1) Ninety days' sight against shipping documents; (2) if sold after arrival, payment cash, less 3 per cent discount; goods to be received and paid for within twenty days from date of sale.

Coffee.—Shipped or to be shipped: (1) Ninety days against shipping documents; (2) if sold after arrival, payment cash, less 1¾ per cent discount (new terms); if sold on the old terms, thirty days, less 2 per cent discount.

Tallow and bacon.—Shipped or to be shipped: (1) Sixty days' sight, documents attached; (2) if sold after arrival, payment cash less 2 per cent discount less thirty days at 5 per cent per annum.

Timber.—To be shipped: (1) Payment, three months drafts, acceptance of buyers against shipping documents; (2) if sold after arrival, payment twenty days, with 1 per cent discount.

MONEY AND CIRCULATION.

The nominal value of money minted and circulated in Belgium from 1832 to 1893 was: Gold, 598,642,745 francs, or $115,538,050; silver, 556,342,745 francs, or $107,374,150; copper and nickel, 15,273,826 francs, or $2,947,848; total, 1,170,259,316 francs, or $225,860,048. No coinage has been minted recently. The proportion of Belgian and of foreign fractional silver coin (2, 1, and ½ franc pieces) circulating in Belgium is indicated by the results of an inquiry by the Banque Nationale. Of fractional silver pieces amounting to 349,217 francs ($67,399) received at the offices of the bank on September 1, 1893, 43.53 per cent in value was Belgian, 34.24 per cent French, 17.83 per cent Italian, 3.65 per cent Swiss, and 0.745 per cent Greek; or 56.465 per cent was foreign.

The one bank of emission in Belgium is the Banque Nationale, instituted in 1850. Its capital, entirely paid up, is 550,000,000 francs ($106,150,000). It is the cashier of the State, and is authorized to carry on the usual banking operations.

UNITS OF MONEY, WEIGHTS, AND MEASURES.

Money.—The par value of the franc, which is the monetary unit, is $0.193.

Belgium was one of the five continental States—comprising, besides, France, Italy, Greece, and Switzerland—which formed the Latin Monetary Union in 1865.

Weights and measures.—The old customary weights and measures were abolished by law in 1836, and by the law of October 1, 1855, the metric system of weights and measures was made obligatory after January 1, 1856.

UNITED STATES CONSULS IN BELGIUM.

Antwerp	Harvey Johnson	Ghent	Henry C. Morris
Brussels	George W. Roosevelt	Liege	Henry W. Gilbert

BELGIAN CONSULS IN THE UNITED STATES.

State.	Residence.	Name and jurisdiction.	Rank.
Alabama	Mobile	Robert B. du Mont For Alabama and Florida (Gulf Coast).	Consul.
California	Los Angeles	V. Ponet	Consular agent.
	San Francisco	Wilfrid B. Chapman	Consul.
Colorado	Denver	J. Mignolet For Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico.	Do.
Georgia	Atlanta	Laurent de Give	Do.
	Savannah	Léopold Charrier	Do.
Illinois	Chicago	Charles Henrotin	Do.
Kentucky	Louisville	E. Girard For Kentucky and Tennessee.	Do.
Louisiana	New Orleans	A. J. Landauer	Do.
		E. Dreuil	Vice-consul.
Maryland	Baltimore	Arnold Kummer For Maryland and Delaware.	Consul.
Massachusetts	Boston	E. S. Mansfield For Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine.	Do.
Michigan	Detroit	Théophile François	Do.
Missouri	St. Louis	Philippe Gruner For Missouri and Arkansas.	Do.
Nebraska	Omaha	A. de Backer For Nebraska and Kansas.	Do.
New York	New York City	Charles Mali For New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.	Do.
		P. Mali	Vice-consul.
Ohio	Cincinnati	P. H. Hartmann	Consul.
Oregon	Portland	Th. J. O'Connor For Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana.	Do.
Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Paul Hagemans For the United States.	Consul-general.
	Pittsburg	A. Schneider For western Pennsylvania.	Vice-consul.
South Carolina	Charleston	E. Wells Also for North Carolina.	Consul.
Texas	Galveston	Francis Lammers For Texas, Indian Territory, and Oklahoma.	Do.
Virginia	Richmond	W. O. Nolting For Virginia and West Virginia.	Do.
Wisconsin	Green Bay	O. J. B. Brice For Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.	Do.

CONSULAR REPORT.

GHENT.

(*Report of Henry C. Morris, consul at Ghent.*)

[Ghent is a city situated in the northwestern part of Belgium, at the confluence of the Lys with the Scheldt, in latitude 57° 3′ north, and longitude 3° 42′ east (Greenwich), 40.4 miles northwest of Brussels. The city is situated upon 36 small islands, connected with each other by 300 bridges. It has a magnificent dock, opened in 1881, capable of holding 400 vessels. A canal 16 feet deep and 33 feet wide connects it with the Scheldt at Terneuzen. Another canal connects the Lys with the canal from Bruges to Ostend. The improvements of these are now hastening toward completion, and the dredging is already so far advanced that the largest vessels can now swing at their discharging berths, instead of having to stop and turn some distance down the canal and then come up stern first, which incurred for them both danger and delay. New dry docks were also opened in June, 1892. Ghent has long been celebrated as a manufacturing town, especially for its cotton and linen goods and lace. The city was mentioned as a town as early as the seventh century, and gradually grew in wealth, so that in the fourteenth century it could send 50,000 men into the field. The wealth and liberty of its citizens led them to a bold maintenance of their privileges against the encroachments of feudalism. Two great revolts took place under the leadership of the Van Arteveldes (1388 and 1369) against Burgundy, and again in the sixteenth century against Charles V. But the great municipalities of the Middle Ages were decaying in power and vigor, and they soon fell into bondage. In 1792 the Netherlands fell under the power of France, and Ghent became the capital of the Department of Escaut (Scheldt). In 1814 it became, along with Flanders, a part of the Netherlands, until the separation of Belgium and Holland. It has important industries, such as sugar refining, the manufacture of hosiery, thread, ribbons, steel instruments, carriages, paper, hats, delftware, tobacco, and many other articles. There are also machine works, engine factories, ropewalks, tanneries, breweries, and distilleries. The total imports by the Terneuzen-Ghent Canal into the port of Ghent for the year 1893 were 450,659 tons avoirdupois; 1892, 457,281 tons, and in 1891, 520,722 tons. For the same period the exports were, 1893, 298,878 tons avoirdupois; 1892, 290,584 tons, and 1891, 266,052 tons. The population of Ghent for the year 1846 was 102,977; in 1856, 108,925; in 1866, 115,351; in 1880, 131,431; in 1890, 148,729, and in 1893, 153,803.]

POPULATION AND OCCUPATIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

In regard to this consular district the population on December 31, 1892, was as follows: East Flanders, 961,907; area, 1,158 square miles; population per square mile, 831; agricultural population in 1880, 244,700, or 27.74 per cent of the total. West Flanders (population in 1890), 749,291; area, 1,248 square miles; population per square mile, 600; agricultural population in 1880, 180,774, or 26.13 per cent of the total.

These two provinces form more than one-fifth of the area of Belgium and contain more than one-fourth of all its inhabitants. Their total area is 2,406 square miles, with a total population of 1,711,198 inhabitants, being 711 persons per square mile. This district contains about 35 per cent of the entire agricultural population of Belgium. It is generally characterized as the agricultural portion of Belgium, the preponderant majority of the inhabitants of the entire country being engaged in other industries. The district of Waes—situated around St. Nicholas, in East Flanders—by reason of its fertile soil and fine pasturage, is known as the "garden of Flanders."

SOIL, CLIMATE, AND PRODUCTIONS.

According to differences in the composition of the soil, Belgium is divided into several agricultural regions, only one of which, i. e., the plains and sandy regions located in this district are described in this report. The plains, or "polders," as they are here called, extend along the seacoast and the banks of the lower Escaut. They have a width of from 6 to 9 miles. The soil of this region, formed of alluvial and detritus of fluvial marine origin, is very fertile. These polders are lands conquered from the water, and must be protected by dikes.

The sandy region corresponds in general to lower Belgium. The soil of Flanders is composed of a fine sand, mixed sometimes with gravel or resting on a ferruginous subsoil. It is naturally sterile, and owes its fertility only to the persevering toil of its inhabitants. The principal forest trees are oak, ash, beech, elm, and fir. The most common fruit trees are the pear, apple, plum, cherry, apricot, peach, and walnut. There are some vineyards along the Meuse near Huy, in the Province of Liege. Cows, horses, and sheep are the principal domestic animals. In Flanders the breeding of fowls is an industry of considerable importance. The latest statistics give the amount of the annual average value of production of Belgium for the various classes of agricultural products as follows:

Cereals	$104,575,000	Timber	$4,179,000
Pulse	2,607,000	Produce from isolated farms, not elsewhere enumerated	290,000
Industrial plants	23,714,000	Products of horticulture	2,895,000
Fodder roots	4,437,000	Fruits	8,685,000
Potatoes	44,309,000		
Fodder plants	49,138,000		
Miscellaneous	11,059,000	Total products of soil	272,558,000
Second crops	16,670,000		

The values of the principal crops of Belgium included in the foregoing were in round numbers.

The following table gives the average annual value of certain important crops for the period 1871–1880:

Wheat	$25,781,000	Flax, seed and fiber	$13,069,000
Rye	17,390,000	Red clover (hay)	12,896,000
Oats	15,923,000		

PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

The average prices of the principal agricultural products in 1892 per 100 pounds were:

Oats	$1.30	Colza	$2.65
Spelt	1.35	Hops	8.31
Wheat	1.69	Flax (seed)	2.42
Maslin	1.54	Flax (fiber)	10.64
Barley	1.40	Tobacco	19.91
Buckwheat	1.70	Potatoes	.70
Rye	1.43	Hay	.74
Beans	1.66	Straw	.45
Peas	2.41	Butter	24.42

Prices of meat.

	Price per pound.			Price per pound.	
	Live weight.	Slaughtered.		Live weight.	Slaughtered.
Oxen	$0.0691	$0.1523	Calves	$0.0956	$0.1698
Bulls	.0657	.1435	Sheep	.0782	.1427
Cows and heifers	.0910	.1444	Hogs	.0849	.1523

NUMBERS AND VALUES OF ANIMALS.

In 1880 the number of animals in the Kingdom was, respectively:

	Number.	Number per 1,000 inhabitants.
Horses	271,974	49
Horned cattle	1,382,815	251
Sheep	365,400	66
Swine	646,375	117

In 1892 the number of animals sold at the different cattle fairs and markets, with their average price, was:

	Number.	Price per head.
Horses	66,156	$115.00
Colts	15,235	75.00
Bulls and oxen	76,628	79.00
Milch cows	168,311	64.00
Bullocks	37,516	26.00
Heifers	97,612	43.00
Calves	119,185	16.40
Sheep	94,231	6.25
Lambs	11,253	3.20

TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The chief importation from the United States into Belgium is grain, followed at a long distance by refined petroleum, meats, cotton, and fats.

The following table shows the value of the chief articles imported into Belgium from the United States:

	1892.	1893.
Grains of every kind	$17,061,174	$9,803,435
Petroleum, refined	2,641,784	2,954,830
Meats	5,729,977	2,087,295
Cotton	1,146,420	1,820,955
Fats	2,122,614	1,531,841
Unclassified resinous substances	820,129	1,152,596
Tobacco, unmanufactured	1,184,441	974,071
Flours and manufactures of flour	1,238,869	811,372

AMERICAN PRODUCTS.

For the purpose of obtaining a basis for judgment of the conditions existing in the various lines of trade mentioned in the circular of the Department of Agriculture, I addressed a circular letter of inquiry to the principal merchants of this district who deal in these respective commodities. The statements hereinafter made comprise the summary of their replies. The statistical tables hereto annexed are based upon the statistics published in the "General statement of commerce with foreign countries" issued by the minister of finance. They indicate approximately the quantities, by countries and the total values, of the articles imported into Belgium for the three years ending December 31, 1893. By examination of them the relative importance and condition of the trade of the United States in each line can be ascertained. By a comparison of the value with the quantity of imports, the average import price of each article can be ascertained.

ANIMALS.

Cattle, beef, and sheep.—In the cities there is a large consumption of beef and mutton; in the country the demand is small and mostly for pork. The native production does not suffice. The principal countries from which cattle are brought are Holland, France, and Germany. These frontiers are now closed on account of diseases prevailing. The wholesale prices per pound at present, with the frontiers closed, are as follows:

	Price per pound.	
	Live weight.	Slaughtered.
Oxen	$0.077 to $0.083	$0.123 to $0.140
Cows	.072 to .081	.123 to .135
Sheep	.068 to .079	.144 to .157

In ordinary times, however, prices are reduced to the following figures: Oxen, live weight, 6.5 to 7.2 cents per pound; cows, 6.3 to 7 cents; sheep, 6.1 to 6.5 cents.

There is a considerable importation from the United States and Canada. The people do not, however, consider the meat as good as their native product. It is tougher, they say, which fact they attribute to the wilder condition in which the animal lives; it has more exercise and its muscles become harder; its food also has a similar influence. Very frequently our cattle are too fat for this market. Their entry into Belgium is at present prohibited on the plea that pleuro-pneumonia exists. In ordinary times the risk and expense of transportation seem to constitute the chief obstacles to the increase of American trade. The tendency, however, is to an increased demand for cattle from abroad. Prices are rising. It is also preferable to import cattle for slaughter rather than the meat in any stage of preparation. This fact is more or less attributable to the general and local regulations governing the inspection of meat.

Pork is almost the only meat exported—chiefly to England and France.

The prevailing idea seems to be that if American meat were better in quality the importation would be larger. At the same time I can not find anyone here who would prefer the American product if he could buy in any other nearer country upon terms equally advantageous. The difficulty of correspondence, the delay in delivery, and want of funds are additional hindrances. In my opinion the scarcity of Belgian commercial houses able and willing to enter into large transactions is the fundamental reason for the small amount of our trade. If, however, the Belgians could find American houses willing to do business with them upon their own terms of payment there are some who are disposed to buy.

The number of animals slaughtered at Ghent for food during 1893 and 1894 was as follows:

	1893.	1894.
Horses	1,721	1,235
Cows	1,762	1,635
Bulls	6,627	6,377
Oxen	8,368	7,436
Heifers	13,366	13,876
Calves	8,727	8,468
Hogs and pigs	19,648	20,664
Sheep	5,984	5,487
Lambs	359	397
Goats	89	144
Total	66,651	65,719

IMPORTATION OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

The tables immediately following show the number of head and the value of the different cattle imported into Belgium. From them we also learn the countries from which this supply is drawn. The total number of head of all cattle imported in 1893 (Tables I to VII) amounted to 120,810, with a value of $6,075,835. Of this total, Holland supplied

practically all; that is to say, 117,128 head, valued at $5,864,315. France, the only other country requiring mention, sent 2,047 head, valued at $111,946, while all the rest of the world is represented by 1,635 head, valued at $99,574. A further inspection of these tables shows that during the past three years Holland has increased its trade, while France, on the other hand, has been gradually losing. These official figures indicate the share of the United States to be insignificant.

The importation of hogs into Belgium is unimportant. In 1891 its total value was about $800, and in 1893 it was even less.

Tables VIII and IX indicate the number of sheep and lambs imported in 1893 as 199,558, with a value of $1,146,861. Germany furnished 111,725 head, valued at $669,761; Holland, 69,520, valued at $377,451; Luxemburg, 17,525, valued at $94,402; all other countries, 788 head, valued at $5,247.

Importation of cattle of all kinds into Belgium (entered for domestic use).

I.—STEERS.

Country.	Number imported.		
	1891.	1892.	1893.
Holland	1,167	831	1,538
France	72	13	15
Other countries	17	.....	.....
Total	1,256	844	1,553
Total value	$58,590	$36,288	$72,177

II.—BULLS.

Holland	7,193	3,316	7,503
France	30	120	31
United States	481	140	.....
Other countries	16	65	106
Total	7,720	3,641	7,640
Total value	$58,590	$36,288	$72,177

III.—BULLOCKS.

Holland	1,698	971	1,565
France	34	5	.....
Other countries	3	.....	6
Total	1,735	976	1,571
Total value	$532,299	$231,360	$450,537

IV.—COWS.

Holland	19,418	13,597	21,577
France	3,306	1,833	995
Germany	30	25	295
Other countries	13	239	787
Total	22,767	15,694	23,654
Total value	$532,299	$231,360	$450,537

Importation of cattle of all kinds into Belgium (entered for domestic use)—Continued.

V.—OXEN.

Country.	Number imported.		
	1891.	1892.	1893.
Holland	20,277	11,136	20,438
France	3,610	3,249	874
England	.....	403	220
United States	807	991	.....
Other countries	196	65	179
Total	24,890	15,844	21,711
Total value	$2,148,905	$1,329,704	$1,564,589

VI.—CALVES.

Holland	24,170	17,440	20,126
France	245	258	39
Other countries	15	18	13
Total	24,430	17,716	20,178
Total value	$503,574	$285,020	$343,059

VII.—HEIFERS.

Holland	21,253	13,437	44,381
France	852	439	93
Other countries	10	16	29
Total	22,115	13,892	44,503
Total value	$1,242,711	$696,312	$2,086,835

VIII.—SHEEP.

Country.	Number imported.			Value.		
	1891.	1892.	1893.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	93,103	76,489	89,768	$664,849	$531,445	$597,720
Holland	48,731	45,962	44,221	347,988	319,344	294,445
Luxemburg	3,526	6,311	10,926	25,179	43,849	72,751
Other countries	1,708	1,927	788	12,197	13,389	5,247
Total	147,068	130,689	145,703	1,050,213	908,027	970,163

IX.—LAMBS.

Holland	28,364	34,004	25,299	$98,536	$118,130	$83,006
Germany	27,632	22,968	21,957	95,994	79,791	72,041
Luxemburg	1,470	2,400	6,599	5,107	8,338	21,651
Other countries	87	75	.....	302	260	.....
Total	57,553	59,447	53,855	199,939	206,519	176,698

Horses.—Horses are slaughtered here for food; indeed, a considerable number of equines worn out in the cab service come here to be killed. The sale of horse meat, however, is well regulated. It only competes because of its low price. Belgium produces more horses than are required in the country. They are, however, almost all heavy draft horses. Ten thousand of these animals are shipped annually to Germany, where they find their principal market. On the other hand, carriage and saddle horses must be imported into Belgium. The countries furnishing the principal number of these

animals are France, England, Ireland, Holland, and the United States. The average price of draft horses is $160 to $200; carriage and saddle horses sell from $300 to $600, or even more. American horses are not found to be dearer than those imported from other countries, and generally there is not any complaint to be made against them. Almost all American horses here come direct from the Union Stock Yards, Chicago. The price of transportation, fodder included, ranges from $60 to $80. In order to increase the American trade, a reduction in the price of the speedy drivers must be made. The average ordinary prices paid by Ghent merchants for horses are as follows: For street-car horses, $60; for carriage and saddle horses, $200 to $300; for speedy drivers, $600. In each instance the price of transportation—$60 to $80—must be added. There are many American carriage and saddle horses and a few American street-car horses at Ghent.

The local prices for draft horses have remained almost unchanged during the past year. For carriage and saddle horses there has, however, been a decrease approximating 25 per cent. The demand is also decreasing. Owing to diminution of incomes there are about 300 fewer fine horses in Ghent than fifteen years ago. The chief obstacles to American trade are the ordinary objections made—duration of voyage, risk, price, and expense. High prices almost prevent any trade.

The difficulty of insurance has also to be considered. In summer the rate is 5 per cent; in winter 11 per cent. Sometimes during the months of November, December, and January insurance is entirely unobtainable.

Ghent, however, offers a considerable market for horses. About 2,000 are sold annually, chiefly to go to Germany. It is impossible to obtain any information about mules. From my own observations I should say very few are employed in this vicinity.

Tables X and XI, subjoined, give the official Belgian returns of horses and colts imported during three years; from them it appears that the total number in 1893 amounted to 22,349, valued at $2,595,779. Of them France furnished 9,788, England 5,689, Holland 2,861, and Luxemburg 2,861.

Importation of horses of all kinds into Belgium (entered for domestic use).

X.—HORSES.

Country of origin.	1891.	1892.	1893.
France	7,743	6,390	9,353
England	4,519	5,290	5,689
Luxemburg	750	1,440	2,861
Holland	2,703	2,606	2,425
Germany	1,504	559	932
Other countries	51	701	256
Total	17,270	16,986	21,516
Total value	$2,333,177	$2,294,809	$2,533,079

Importation of horses of all kinds into Belgium (entered for domestic use)—Continued.

XI.—COLTS.

Country of origin.	1891.	1892.	1893.
France	549	340	435
Holland	636	473	393
Other countries	9	13	5
Total	1,194	826	833
Total value	$115,221	$67,753	$62,700

CEREALS.

For this branch of the subject reference is respectfully made to a special report sent from this consulate, under date of March 8, 1894, to the Department of State and printed in the April (1894) number of Consular Reports (Vol. XLIV, No. 163, pp. 715–724), also in special Consular Reports (Vol. X, pp. 184–193). The situation of these articles remains very nearly the same as that then existing. A slight difference in prices has occurred. The extracts following, drawn from the reports mentioned, are amended and corrected to the present date.

Wheat.—The Belgian harvest of 1894 was very large, and consequently the prices of wheat fell to unprecedentedly low figures. Since the first of the year, however, there has been a slight tendency upward. The quotations per 100 pounds of the principal brands on the market now are, respectively: American, $1.19; La Plata, $1.13½; Danube, $1.09½; Varna, $1.16; Walla, $1.21.

It may be useful to mention the milling capacity of this district. There are, I am informed, five large mills. Two very large establishments are situated at Deinze, not far from Ghent. The proprietors are Mr. Timmermans and Mr. DeVolder. The three chief mills in this city are owned by Messrs. Bracy & Co., Epouse Blançquarte, and Mr. Charles Oerts. All these mills are provided with the most recent machinery. The total combined capacity of the five is about 600,000 pounds of wheat per day, valued at $8,000. Other brands of wheat than those already mentioned imported from the United States are Red Winter No. 2, Kansas No. 2, Newport News, and California.

Imports of wheat.—Table XII shows the value and amount of importations of wheat, spelt, and maslin from abroad into Belgium. It will be noticed that the countries from which these grains now chiefly come are Roumania, the United States, and Argentina. Russia, which formerly (in 1888) furnished the largest quantity, now supplies about one-fourth its former amount. Roumania, the chief competitor of the United States, supplies less now than five years ago, while the East Indies, at one time very important, now occupy an inferior position. In 1893 for the first time Argentina became a serious rival. The quantity of grain imported from the United States showed a considerable decrease as compared with the figures for 1891 and 1892. The value indeed in 1893 was less than one-half that given for 1891. The decrease in price of

grain will be noticed by looking at the totals for 1891 and 1893. In the former year the amount imported into Belgium was 1,416,686,457 kilograms (3,123,255,297 pounds), valued at $60,152,507, while in 1893 the imports amounted to 1,034,096,126 kilograms (2,279,789,001 pounds), with a value of only $29,937,083.

TABLE XII.—*Importation of wheat, spelt, and maslin into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Brazil	26,807,547	27,224,075	95,978,912
Bulgaria	27,101,172	25,783,750	38,177,838
Egypt	34,047,981	20,498,913	14,076,500
United States	380,108,083	405,543,065	264,013,373
France	12,396,399	10,774,776	7,658,624
British India	236,930,973	110,466,011	17,052,132
Netherlands	12,066,531	23,505,015	15,192,016
Argentina	135,537,444	109,930,022	236,404,654
Roumania	363,558,218	261,965,186	279,764,596
Russia	124,118,027	3,806,796	40,207,069
Turkey	23,507,835	3,539,770	8,580,325
Other countries	40,506,247	29,020,747	16,990,087
Total	1,416,686,457	1,032,058,126	1,034,096,126
Total value	$60,152,507	$33,861,827	$29,937,083

Flour.—All bread is made by bakers. It is exceptional to bake bread or biscuit in one's own kitchen. The baker supplies all, and always of uniform character. There is as much style in bread as in dress. What your neighbor eats you must eat. At Ghent this fact is particularly true. Questions of politics and of bread are connected. There are in this city two large cooperative bakeries, known as "Vooruit" and "Volksbelang." They supply three-fifths of the bread consumed. If you are a socialist you will buy your bread from the "Vooruit;" if an antisocialist, from the "Volksbelang."

There are, of course, numerous private bakers, but none of great importance. Their patronage comes from the richer classes, their particular friends, and the transient trade. The bread furnished by the cooperative societies is probably as good as that made by the private bakers and sells for about two-thirds of the price asked at the smaller shops. It may generally be said that the people eat mostly wheat bread, though there is some little brown bread used. In the villages the proportion is half wheat and half rye bread. In the country people generally eat rye bread, but frequently the farmers use bread made of a flour resulting from the grinding or crushing of wheat without any further cleansing or preparation. In the cities the "bourgeoisie" consume little bread, not exceeding daily one pound per individual. A workman eats at least two pounds of bread per day. The flour employed by the cooperative societies is mostly "00," which is a good medium quality. The bread manufactured from this brand is sold by these societies at 18 to 20 centimes (about 4 cents) per loaf of 1 kilogram (2.2

pounds). The private bakers use a better quality of flour, worth 1 to 3 francs (19.3 to 57.9 cents) more per sack of 100 kilograms (220.462 pounds), and sell the bread at 26 to 32 centimes (about 5 to 6 cents) per loaf of 2.2 pounds.

All conditions being equal, the bakers are inclined to use Belgian flour, even though the quality of bread may not be as good. The people, of course, do not know what they eat; to them it is a matter of indifference, provided the price is reasonable and the bread to their taste.

The Belgians are ready to use American flour if it is good and the price advantageous. Both the "Vooruit" and the "Volksbelang" replied in these terms. According to their own statement the "Vooruit" employs 30,000 sacks of 100 kilograms per year, and the "Volksbelang" 70,000 sacks. Both have assured me that they are willing and ready to treat directly with American houses. The "Volksbelang" supplies bread daily to 45,000 persons, the "Vooruit" to 25,000 persons. It seems to me that it would pay Americans to open direct correspondence with both these important cooperative societies of Ghent.

The quality of flour mostly used is that known as "00 native," selling at 17 francs ($3.281) wholesale and 18 francs ($3.474) retail per 100 kilograms (220.462 pounds). Whether or not sufficient wheat flour is produced in Belgium for consumption is an open question. It is, however, a fact that large quantities of wheat flour from abroad are imported. American flour is chiefly used for whitening the native product. Most of this flour for sale at Ghent comes from St. Louis and Minneapolis. The "Patent" and "Imperial" are generally preferred. American flour is the most employed after the native product. The wheat flour coming from Hungary is used largely, but only for pastry and the finer baking. Bakers agree that American flour is better for working and that the same quantity produces more bread; for instance, 100 kilograms of American flour is said to produce 4 more pounds of bread than the same quantity of any other flour; "00 native" produces 125 to 133 pounds of bread to 100 pounds of flour.

Imports of flour.—Table XIII shows the importation of flour of every kind. Here we see the trade of the United States showed also a marked decrease in 1893 as compared with 1892. From first place in 1892 it fell to third in 1893. France and Holland are our chief competitors. France now occupies first rank and Holland second. The competition of France is the most dangerous, as the French Government itself aids and assists this trade by law and by drawback of 29 cents for every sack of 220 pounds exported. The effect of this drawback makes the price of French flour lower than that coming from Holland. In 1893, for the first time, the Belgian Government published statistics showing the different kinds of flour imported into Belgium. Heretofore they had always been grouped together without distinction. Tables XIV*a* to XIV*f* are reproductions of the statistics for 1893.

They indicate that the struggle for supremacy in the trade in wheat flour is between France and the United States. Germany has a practical monopoly for the rye flour. England sends the largest amount of flour made from barley, buckwheat, and oats, and Holland supplies most of the other mill stuffs.

TABLE XIII.—*Importation of flours, brans, food fecula, and other mill stuffs into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	8,506,122	6,241,047	5,390,659
England	5,280,492	2,718,390	2,345,845
United States	20,377,006	26,536,147	20,612,055
France	42,138,164	23,011,896	27,657,682
Netherlands	15,216,676	13,514,137	20,630,765
Other countries	9,215,573	13,388,214	9,466,281
Total	100,734,033	85,409,831	86,103,287
Total value	$6,026,917	$3,956,183	$3,936,357

TABLE XIV*a*.—*Importation of wheat flour (including flour of spelt and meslin) into Belgium for 1893.*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1893.	Country.	1893.
Germany	4,554,311	Uruguay	1,924,034
England	766,090	Other countries	683,845
United States	19,796,520		
France	25,285,966	Total	58,066,544
Netherlands	3,513,491		
Argentina	1,542,287	Total value	$2,241,369

TABLE XIV*b*.—*Importation of rye flour into Belgium for 1893.*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1893.
Germany	592,855
France	194,174
Netherlands	115,769
Other countries	22,375
Total	925,173
Total value	$30,355

TABLE XIV*c*.—*Importation of barley flour into Belgium for 1893.*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1893.
Germany	118
England	98,940
France	75,945
Netherlands	12,618
Total	187,621
Total value	$5,794

TABLE XIV*d*.—*Importation of buckwheat and oat flour and corn meal into Belgium for 1893.*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1893.
England	334, 583
United States	135, 169
Netherlands	131, 452
Argentina	19, 400
Other countries	8, 711
Total	629, 315
Total value	$20, 648

TABLE XIV*e*.—*Importation of other flour not elsewhere specified into Belgium for 1893.*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1893.	Country.	1893.
Germany	158, 126	Roumania	176, 260
England	258, 198	Other countries	136, 882
United States	300, 708		
France	646, 830	Total	17, 486, 343
Netherlands	15, 674, 316		
Argentina	135, 023	Total value	$1, 451, 192

TABLE XIV*f*.—*Importation of bran into Belgium for 1893.*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1893.	Country.	1893.
Germany	85, 249	Roumania	768, 860
England	888, 034	Russia	436, 960
United States	379, 658	Turkey	380, 338
France	1, 454, 767	Other countries	97, 678
Hamburg	355, 476		
British India	2, 246, 107	Total	8, 808, 291
Netherlands	1, 183, 119		
Argentina	532, 045	Total value	$187, 000

OBSTACLES TO TRADE.

Every merchant whom I have addressed tells me that there is no certainty of twice receiving the same quality of flour even under the same brand. The second lot purchased on the same conditions is always inferior to the first. Naturally, suspicions arise concerning the honesty of the American shippers. There has been given me, however, one explanation. It is said to be the custom of certain Belgian houses to purchase the old sacks, fill them with inferior flour (sometimes native, sometimes foreign), and place this article on the market under its original mark. Here is the first great obstacle. To secure immunity from all possible false pretenses American merchants should send flour in such parcels or packages that the contents can not possibly be changed or the wrappers used a second time, thereby guaranteeing to the purchaser the inviolability of their brand.

The large indigenous production is naturally another competing influence. More than this is the proximity of French markets. Americans are not ready to give the credit usually desired. The merchants must pay in thirty days, while they receive their pay from the bakers only in sixty, ninety, or one hundred and twenty days. These terms for payment are conceded by Belgian millers, who consequently have a great advantage. American flour is also, according to the prevailing idea, too dry. In fact, it is seldom used alone, but only as a mixture with the native product. American merchants want to sell in one assignment quantities too large for this market. The bakers, generally speaking, with the exception of the cooperative societies, have not the means of storing it. To secure a trade the seller must be ready to sell in small quantities without the mediation of agents and to deliver to purchasers regularly. Again, the price of American flour is generally higher than others. While a difference of opinion exists, it seems that to the Belgian idea its possible superiority does not compensate for the extra price. From the tables it is evident that much foreign flour is introduced into Belgium. The American article has a fair chance, but to successfully compete the price must be reduced. Whether the cost of transportation renders a further reduction in its price possible is a question which American millers must decide.

PRICES OF WHEAT FLOUR.

The prices of wheat flour per 100 pounds have been as follows:

Quality.	February, 1892.	February, 1893.	February, 1894.	February, 1895.
0000	$2.71 to $2.88	$2.04 to $2.19	$1.70 to $1.84	$1.66
00	2.62	1.93	1.59 to 1.62	1.58
0	2.53	1.84	1.49 to 1.52	1.49
1	2.36	1.66	1.31	1.29
3	.....	.....	1.14	1.12

The above prices are to bakers. At the mills the merchants pay 9 cents per 100 pounds less. Retail prices per 100 pounds to-day are as follows:

Quality.	Price.	Quality.	Price.
0000	$1.73	1	$1.44
00	1.58	3	1.23
0	1.51		

The price of bread has likewise fallen. In 1891 the cooperative societies sold for 2½ cents per pound bread which now sells for 1⅔ cents per pound. The prices at the bakers are respectively 2½ and 3½ cents per pound.

Maize, oats, and buckwheat.—In the statistics of Belgian imports oats, maize, and buckwheat are grouped together, so that it is impossible to ascertain the importance of the trade in each article separately. Maize, it may be said, however, is very slightly employed. As a table dish it is entirely unknown. It is not produced at all in the country,

and is regarded as a food fit only for animals. A small quantity, however, is imported especially for brewing purposes. The most of it comes from England in the form of flakes. There is, I understand, a factory near London engaged in the preparation of this product. The brewing school of Ghent made an analysis of brewers' meal, and at the International Congress of Chemistry held in connection with the Antwerp Exposition the director made a very favorable report of the results obtained. The vital difficulty, however, which seems to prevent the introduction of brew meal is the fact that it requires the employment of an extra tub in brewing; owing to the small size of the breweries in Belgium, as a rule, it is impossible to make the change required. A sale of maize for fodder was also made last season to a Ghent merchant. Unfortunately, before the delivery of the goods the price of oats fell so much as to cause him a considerable loss. He was consequently very much dissatisfied, and refuses to further handle the article. The prices of maize now in the market are as follows per 100 pounds: Mixed, $1.12; Galata (immediate delivery), $1.09; Odessa (immediate delivery), $1.09; La Plata (June delivery), 92 to 94 cents; La Plata, extra (June delivery), 98 cents; Egyptian, $1.03.

As we have already noticed, oats form one of the principal Belgian crops. The average annual value of oats produced is about $16,000,000. Nevertheless, large quantities of oats are imported. The figures in Table XV, immediately following, relate chiefly to this article. The principal quotations now are: Russian oats, per 100 pounds, 92 cents to $1.03; La Plata, 90 cents. Looking at the figures of imports, we observe that in 1893 Russia imported the most oats, maize, and buckwheat into Belgium. Roumania and the United States occupied second and third place, respectively. It is further to be remarked that the Russian trade exceeded that of any previous year. The United States, on the contrary, lost ground as compared with 1892. Ordinarily our country is the chief source of supply for these articles.

TABLE XV.—*Importation of oats, maize, and buckwheat into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	3,109,795	657,606	4,081,083
England	1,529,433	675,720	455,512
Brazil	995,473	5,239,979	289,700
Bulgaria	4,663,032	2,628,656	10,876,272
Canada	1,669,875	11,701,255	36,897,715
Denmark	1,212,086	.....	240,000
Egypt	20,225,839	4,164,200	200,000
United States	34,195,060	112,390,920	67,926,107
France	23,835,091	11,540,228	3,937,121
Netherlands	4,968,434	6,167,639	15,759,432
Argentina	12,491,968	22,788,511	3,935,054
Roumania	44,851,481	47,159,972	75,740,499
Russia	87,989,023	29,203,438	132,508,553
Sweden and Norway	9,207,263	2,164,513	7,016,564
Turkey	3,668,000	1,247,680	5,226,420
Other countries	830,753	5,938,405	3,843,469
Total	255,442,606	263,368,722	368,933,501
Total value	$7,888,068	$7,633,209	$10,680,625

Barley.—The prices of barley given me are as follows per 100 pounds: First. For cattle feed, inferior quality, on the vessel at dock, 83½ cents; delivered in Ghent, 85 cents; May and June delivery, 82 to 82¾ cents. Second. For brewing purposes, delivered Smyrna, 91 cents to $1; Sicata, $1.27. Third. Extra good Danube, Roumania, and Moldavia, 94 cents to $1.44. Fourth. Belgian barley, $1.18 to $1.23.

Table XVI shows the importation of barley and malt into Belgium to be of considerable importance. Russia, Roumania, and Holland are the principal countries whence it comes. The trade of the United States is insignificant.

Table XVII includes the figures for grits and pearl barley. Here we find Russia, Holland, and England the chief rivals, while importations from the United States are insignificant.

TABLE XVI.—*Importation of barley and malt into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	2,063,773	1,592,480	2,786,312
Austria	4,702,796	4,209,358	4,633,740
Bulgaria	2,820,245	2,000,000	4,543,850
Denmark	5,144,291	839,083	700,911
United States	3,734,344	5,492,850	256,122
France	48,510,482	44,475,095	12,668,235
Greece	.....	1,794,700	310,000
Hamburg	3,754,227	1,686,116	1,981,836
Italy	.....	848,500	995,000
Netherlands	28,886,599	32,167,021	45,525,892
Roumania	46,582,424	31,168,678	44,243,022
Russia	35,555,532	46,506,465	107,469,324
Turkey	16,867,822	8,406,002	11,948,090
Other countries	13,344,905	1,014,316	10,219,933
Total	211,967,440	182,200,664	248,282,267
Total value	$7,363,749	$5,626,376	$7,453,203

TABLE XVII.—*Importation of grits and pearl barley into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	62,233	17,128	.....
France	503,933	25,215	26,035
Hamburg	50,925	4,935	.....
Netherlands	332,099	328,863	912,027
Russia	608,152	.....	1,196,015
Other countries	30,794	8,655	634,120
Total	1,588,136	384,796	2,768,197
Total value	$122,784	$27,478	$160,279

Rye.—The amount imported from the United States has attracted attention and is included in these statistics.

As appears from the tables subjoined, the total value of rye imported into Belgium in 1893 was less than one-fifth of the value given for 1891. The quantity, however, was only about one-third. These facts indicate

a great fall in price. The price to-day on the market is 96 cents to $1 per 100 pounds. It should be borne in mind that the average crop of rye in Belgium is worth $18,000,000. From Table XVIII it appears that in 1893 the country supplying the largest quantity to Belgium was Roumania, which furnished nearly half the entire amount imported. The United States trade shows a continual decrease in quantity for three years. It now is second, but is liable to be eclipsed by Russia at any time. The trade of the latter country, however, shows also a great decrease as compared with former years.

TABLE XVIII.—*Importation of rye into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	884,017	270,507	1,190,732
England	798,958	.....	.....
Bulgaria	1,320,608	1,390,400	1,635,500
Canada	9,412,946	.....	611,000
United States	28,686,556	12,058,800	5,874,910
France	10,892,880	14,067,163	867,705
Netherlands	1,825,653	1,025,843	681,022
Portugal	195,056	1,321,508	.....
Roumania	19,791,859	4,522,381	12,105,915
Russia	31,905,165	757,205	4,831,300
Turkey	926,019	680,350	819,500
Other countries	261,426	1,479,157	929,247
Total	106,901,143	37,573,314	29,546,831
Total value	$4,126,384	$1,160,264	$74,322

Glucose.—For glucose I have failed to obtain any information of importance. Its use is very limited. Statistics of the amount imported or employed do not exist.

Oatmeal and corn meal.—These two items of the list are unknown to Belgians. In order to introduce them, it would be necessary to cause a considerable change in their methods of living. The custom of eating very lightly in the morning militates against oatmeal, while the habit of using exclusively baker's bread prevents the use of corn meal in its most desirable forms. Even the stoves in use in private houses are not suitable for baking corn bread or cakes; the servants are not accustomed to make bread, and the people never eat it hot. These are the obstacles condensed in a nutshell. There are no separate statistics of the importations, which are merely nominal. Oatmeal and corn meal are to be found only in a few shops catering especially to the English trade.

Starch.—Respecting this article, I can not express the situation better than by giving the translation of a letter written in response to my inquiries by a firm of this city, as follows:

Notwithstanding the fact that the consumption of starch is relatively large for our little country, the Belgian production is much too great, and its manufacturers are obliged to export two-thirds of the product to England, Spain, Switzerland, America, and Africa. Our industry, the victim of an absurd tariff, can not any longer export to France, which was formerly one of our best markets. On the contrary, the French manufacturers, paying us no duty, are competing with us in our own country.

There have been attempts to import American starch into Belgium, but these efforts have been fruitless. The American makes, having been of inferior quality, have inspired a want of confidence.

The wholesale price of starch varies from $2.45 to $2.97 per 100 pounds for starch manufactured from corn to $3.07 to $4.03 for starch manufactured from rice. These prices are for purchasers of 1,000 to 2,000 pounds. Purchasers of larger amounts are very rare in Belgium—another reason why the importation of American starch would be difficult, as in small quantities the price of transportation increases the cost too much.

The American demand in Belgium for starch manufactured from rice is considerable. The Belgian process of manufacture for this quality is the best. The starch heretofore imported from the United States into Belgium has been that manufactured from corn; the demand for this quality being small, it has been introduced only by reason of its lesser price, and the tendency indeed is toward its entire disappearance from the market. France is also offering a better starch made of corn than the United States and at better terms of purchase. Under such conditions the sale of the American product is almost impossible.

After this statement it is only necessary to call attention to the statistics of importation (Table XIX). They verify the opinion that the importation of starch into Belgium is on the decrease. The chief countries of supply are Holland and France. Holland sends three-fourths of the entire supply. The amount of the United States trade was small in 1893, much less than in 1892, or even the previous year.

TABLE XIX.—*Importation of starch into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	278,457	169,248	53,044
England	137,793	666,007	147,378
United States	174,462	657,049	118,463
France	572,802	695,551	720,251
Hamburg	40,192	21,870	11,052
Netherlands	3,367,076	3,192,215	3,175,999
Other countries	14,130	2,770	978
Total	4,584,912	5,404,710	4,227,165
Total value	$389,351	$417,244	$310,020

DAIRY PRODUCTS.

Cheese.—Large quantities of cheese are consumed in this country. The production does not equal the demand. The only cheese manufactured to any extent in Belgium is known as Hervé cheese and is a product of the district of the same name, situated in the eastern part of the country. Some other cheese made of whey is produced, but only for local use. Holland is the chief place of origin of cheese imported. England, France, and Switzerland send small quantities. Belgium does not export cheese.

The principal cheeses consumed in Belgium and their prices per pound (according to quality and the season) are as follows:

	Cents.
Gouda (Dutch)	10 to 16
Holland (Dutch)	10 to 16
Gruyère (Swiss)	17 to 22
Brie (French)	17 to 20

Very little if any cheese is imported from the United States. Prices have for several years been falling. The price of transportation, again, would probably be the chief difficulty. Then, in order to find a market here our cheese must be made to suit the public taste, for in this article, probably more than in any other, taste and habit are the chief arbiters.

With favorable terms Belgian merchants could probably be induced to attempt the introduction of our products. For their statistics Belgian authorities have classified cheeses in two groups: First, those known as milk, common soft, and white cheeses; second, all others, which in Table XXI are called hard cheeses. The total importation of these products in 1893 amounted to $1,280,000. As appears from the annexed tables (Nos. XX and XXI), Holland and France practically monopolize the entire trade.

TABLE XX.—*Importation of milk and common soft and white cheeses into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	282	.....	.....
France	1,064,824	1,080,580	1,012,045
Netherlands	65,954	120,975	50,869
Switzerland	1,428	.....	.....
Other countries	624	6,059	12,296
Total	1,133,112	1,207,614	1,075,210
Total value	$54,673	$51,275	$43,578

TABLE XXI.—*Importation of hard cheeses into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	224,658	165,776	98,670
England	42,608	45,198	47,054
Canada	2,275	.....	4,274
United States	3,104	3,840	.....
France	620,900	616,817	552,029
Italy	988	701	4 837
Netherlands	4,281,799	4,122,269	4,356.116
Switzerland	68,523	80,424	77,703
Other countries	809	1,608	1,721
Total	5,245,664	5 036,633	5,142,404
Total value	$1,214,896	$1.166.484	$1,190,981

Butter.—Details concerning the butter market are very difficult to obtain. There is not anyone who seems to know anything about the subject. There are no large dealers in this city. Almost all the trade is done by market women, who bring their product from their farms and offer it weekly for sale at the public markets. The amount of butter consumed is not large and the native production is considered as sufficient; notwithstanding this idea statistics show a large quantity imported annually into Belgium. Most of the Belgian butter is manufactured in Flanders and large quantities find a market at London and Paris. The average price is 24 cents per pound, but naturally varies according to the abundance of the supply. Statistics (Table XXII) indicate that Holland and France have a monopoly of the import trade.

TABLE XXII.—*Importation of fresh and salted butter into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	300,587	261,997	272,355
England	37,739	40,606	25,319
Austria	12,225	46,630	59,919
France	2,965,803	2,399,484	1,965,135
Luxemburg	225,412	186,302	127,186
Italy	14,920	15,813	1,286
Netherlands	2,832,593	2,543,488	3,404,181
Switzerland	5,023	26,472	5,432
Other countries	32,406	29,589	23,093
Total	6,426,708	5,550,381	5,883,906
Total value	$3,038,869	$2,785,181	$2,952,544

BUTTER AND ARTIFICIAL BUTTER IN BELGIUM.

The dairy industry in Belgium has suffered from the constantly increasing competition of artificial butter and margarin. The law of December 10, 1890, relative to the sale of artificial butter partially relieved the condition complained of. More efficacious protection was demanded, and on March 12, 1895, the following decree was made by the Government:

DECREE REGARDING THE SALE OF BUTTER AND MARGARIN.

[Moniteur Belge, March 11 and 12, 1895.]

Pursuant to the law of August 1, 1890, relative to the adulteration of food and to the provisions of articles 454 to 457, 498, 500 to 503, and 561, sections 2 and 3 of the penal code, and also the royal decree of December 10, 1890, regarding the regulations concerning the sale of artificial butter, and the necessity for new police regulations in order to prevent fraud in the making and sale of butter, the following decree is hereby made:

ARTICLE 1. The name "butter" shall only be applied to fats which are made entirely from fats of milk or cream, with or without the addition of salt or coloring matter. Other alimentary fats than butter, and which have a resemblance to butter, shall be designated by the name of "margarin."

ART. 2. The commerce of butter and margarin shall be subject to the following regulations:

1. Margarin intended for sale shall contain only a small proportion of butter, resulting from the addition of milk or cream, considered indispensable in its manufacture; at most the quantity of butter must not exceed 5 per cent.

Margarin must be offered for sale without other coloring than its own natural color, and it must not be of a deeper shade of yellow than is prescribed for it by the minister of agriculture, industry, and public works.

But this decree concerning the color of margarin does not apply to the product which is to be exported direct from the factory.

2. It is forbidden to offer for sale, or to sell butter and margarin in the same place (warehouse, shop, or stall), or in places joining or annexed to one another.

In like manner it is also forbidden for butter manufacturers or butter sellers to keep margarin, even for their own use, in the same place where butter is kept for sale or warehoused, or in the same wagons as are used for transporting butter to market, etc.

Margarin shall not be brought to market, unless it is sold only in that part of it which has been specially designated for it by the authorities.

3. All establishments, stores, warehouses, etc., where margarin is kept or sold or manufactured, and all wagons used for its transport, must have a distinctly visible sign—"Sale of margarin," the letters of this sign to be at least 7.9 inches high and with no other statement or specification.

4. All cases or covers in which margarin is offered for sale or delivered shall bear the inscription "Margarin" in distinct letters of at least 0.787 inch high, with the name of the firm and also the name and address of the seller.

5. The infringement of these regulations as above, 3, 4, and 5, will be considered as equivalent to fixing the label "Butter" on the merchandise.

6. When sent out all waybills, invoices, and bills of lading shall indicate for each shipment that the merchandise is sold as margarin.

ART. 3. It is absolutely forbidden to sell, expose for sale, to keep, or transport for sale—

1. Butter made from milk the sale of which is forbidden by sections 2 and 3 of article 2 of the royal decree of November 18, 1894.

2. Butter or margarin that is spoiled or soured.

3. Butter or margarin to which antiseptics or glycerin have been added.

4. Margarin intended for food which has not been made from animal fats, either fabricated or imported, according to the dispositions of articles 17 to 20 of the regulations relating to the sale of meat.

ART. 4. The infringement of these laws will be punished according to the provisions made by law of August 4, 1890, independently of those established by the penal code.

ART. 5. The minister of agriculture, industry, and public works is charged with the execution of the present decree, which will become a law on the 1st of July, 1895.

The royal decree of December 10, 1890, relating to the commerce of margarin, will be abrogated from that date.

MARGARIN.

The consumption of margarin in Belgium has increased greatly during the past few years, and though the country produces from 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 kilograms (4,409,200 to 6,613,800 pounds) annually, the present consumption now demands an annual importation of about 23,000,000 pounds.

The following shows the importation into and exportation from Belgium of butter and margarin during the past ten years:

Special commerce.

Year.	Importations.		Exportations.		Excess of importations.	
	Butter.	Margarin.	Butter.	Margarin.	Butter.	Margarin.
	Pounds.	*Pounds.*	*Pounds.*	*Pounds.*	*Pounds.*	*Pounds.*
1887	18, 854, 420	.....	8, 372, 944	.....	10, 481, 476	.....
1888	22, 116, 027	.....	7, 991, 218	.....	14, 124, 809	.....
1889	26, 449, 995	.....	7, 994, 971	.....	18, 455, 024	.....
1890	30, 272, 376	.....	7, 834, 547	.....	22, 437, 829	.....
1891	14, 168, 449	24, 074, 750	5, 498, 025	7, 208, 658	8, 670, 424	16, 866, 092
1892	12, 236, 481	25, 994, 203	6, 736, 532	7, 215, 413	5, 499, 949	18, 778, 790
1893	12, 971, 777	26, 219, 347	5, 866, 060	7, 578, 988	7, 105, 717	18, 640, 359

NOTE.—For 1894 the estimated importation of margarin is 22,677,171 pounds.

Nearly all the margarin consumed in Belgium is imported from Holland, and it is estimated that the annual consumption in Belgium of this article amounts to 15,000,000 kilograms (33,069,000 pounds). According to official statistics there has been a decrease in the importation of fats other than butter and margarin, and the latter product has nearly completely replaced the inferior fats which were formerly used. The use of margarin steadily increases, and is now sold in all the cities of the country. The Belgian Government favors the manufacture of margarin to supply the home demand, but also, if possible, to compete with Holland for the English market, which imports annually more than 65,000,000 kilograms (143,299,000 pounds) of this product, estimated at 90,000,000 francs ($17,370,000), principally from Holland, which makes a specialty of mixing American oleomargarin with oil and milk.

To secure a part of the trade with England the Belgian Government has established a duty of 20 francs ($3.86) per 100 kilograms (220.46 pounds) on all imported margarin, and an excise duty of 5 francs (96½ cents) on home production. The remittal of the excise tax will be authorized by law on all exportation.

Very little oleomargarin is manufactured in the country, though large quantities are produced in Austria and France, but nearly the whole continent of Europe receives its supply from New York and Chicago, and almost exclusively via the port of Rotterdam, which received in 1893 more than 35,000,000 kilograms (72,651,800 pounds).

It is the opinion that as the margarin industry develops in Belgium the manufacture of oleomargarin will proportionally increase, and importation of foreign oleomargarin will then be made direct via the port of Antwerp.

At present there is no establishment in Belgium for the preparation of peanut or edible cotton-seed oil.

It is the general opinion of those interested in the manufacture of margarin that an entry duty on this article, as well as an excise tax on the home products, will develop the dairy industry, provided foreign milk destined exclusively for the manufacture of margarin is subjected

to duty. Under the new tariff a duty for milk destined for the manufacture of margarin or other artificial butter is now imposed. Milk destined for other uses will continue to be exempt under reserve indicated in the tariff. The free admission of milk imported in quantities exceeding 50 liters (52½ quarts) is subordinate to remission and measures judged necessary by the minister of finance to prevent frauds.

HONEY.

In compiling the various statistics for other portions of this report my attention has been attracted by the amount of honey imported into Belgium. Considering the important position of the United States in this trade, I have taken the liberty to annex the following table (XXIII). From this statement it appears that the United States supplies more honey than any other country, and that the trade is fairly well established. France is our chief competitor.

TABLE XXIII.—*Importation of honey into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	26, 517	.....	1, 043
England	78, 843	38, 701	55, 551
Cuba and Puerto Rico	4, 316	27, 739	58, 661
United States	361, 104	527, 152	416, 595
France	242, 975	361, 902	297, 631
Hamburg	88, 241	42, 714	6, 422
Italy	29, 070	42, 087	33, 723
Netherlands	91, 808	45, 868	152, 785
Other countries	54, 368	2, 285	1, 096
Total	977, 242	1, 088, 448	1, 023, 507
Total value	$188, 608	$210, 070	$177, 783

FRESH AND SALTED MEATS.

Fresh meats.—According to our ideas the amount of meat consumed in Belgium is small. Only the better class of the Belgians can afford to eat fresh meat daily. Even in the cities the laboring classes do not eat it more than once a week, while in the country they seldom have it once a month. Fish is greatly used, but potatoes, vegetables, and soups form the basis of the poor man's diet. Nevertheless, the native supply in Belgium is not sufficient. The import trade consists mostly of living animals, which are slaughtered at the place where they are to be sold. Considerable quantities of meat, however, come from the United States. The price of fresh meat is about 19 cents per pound, and seldom varies. A striking peculiarity is the fact that all cuts sell at the same price, but the purchaser is always obliged to take a certain quantity of bone, and the amount of this latter varies so as to equalize the price of meat. That is, with superior meat the purchaser must take more bone; with inferior, less.

The facts concerning fresh meats are so nearly related to the subject of beef and sheep, heretofore treated, that the reader is respectfully requested to read these two paragraphs together. The same conditions exist more or less in both instances. The total importation of slaughtered animals, miscellaneous fresh meats, and meats of all kinds, etc. (fresh, salted, and canned), as per Tables XXV, XXVI, amounted in 1893 to about 27,000,000 pounds, valued at $3,000,000. These figures, both for quantity and value, are much less than for any previous years. This great decrease is chiefly due to the restrictions placed by the Belgian Government upon the admission of meats from abroad.

A glance at the table for importation of slaughtered animals (XXIV) indicates the effects of these restrictions. The importation from Germany, several years ago the most important, has fallen to almost nothing. For Luxemburg, too, a similar statement is true. Holland, being less severely affected by this legislation, has profited by the misfortune of other countries.

The figures for importations of meats of all kinds—except such as are prepared with substances subject to duty (Table XXVI)—show a like decrease in the totals, only that the United States is almost the sole country to suffer. We however yet maintain a preponderating lead over all the rest of the world combined, as we still continue to supply more than two-thirds of all the meats included in this class.

TABLE XXIV.—*Importation of slaughtered animals into Belgium (entered for consumption.)*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	101	30	13
England	3,640	39	430
Brazil	.....	10	.....
France	9,648	6,138	14,590
Luxemburg	502	438	485
Netherlands	6,536	68,690	124,157
Total	20,427	75,345	139,675
Total value	$7,096	$23,267	$43,132

TABLE XXV.—*Importation of fresh meats, not elsewhere specified, into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	8,963	5,062	3,397
England	.....	6	.....
France	.....	339	46
Luxemburg	.....	60	230
Netherlands	2	145	.....
Other countries	.....	.....	6
Total	8,965	5,612	3,679
Total value	$53,314	$1,949	$1,278

TABLE XXVI.—*Importation into Belgium of meats (not fresh) of all kinds except such as are prepared with substances subject to duty (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	119,051	121,411	121,625
England	1,976,058	904,763	1,136,414
United States	18,771,148	23,751,422	8,651,657
France	167,827	119,669	248,851
Hamburg	443,360	130,727	225,741
Netherlands	273,300	329,590	665,925
Argentina	2,608,869	1,057,229	1,051,065
Uruguay	324,709	266,050	56,355
Other countries	376,319	57,525	103,938
Total	25,060,641	26,738,386	12,261,571
Total value	$6,045,880	$6,450,636	$2,958,104

FOWLS AND GAME.

As addenda to the paragraph relative to meats a few words may be said concerning the importation of fowls and game. In both these lines Holland, Germany, and Italy are the chief sources of supply. As the demand is growing annually, the market may be worth the attention of American poultry dealers. The following tables (XXVII and XXVIII) give the particulars of this trade:

TABLE XXVII.—*Importation of fowls into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	20,928	24,673	81,438
England	10,359	3,606	1,081
France	7,183	8,427	9,995
Italy	42,028	52,691	56,369
Netherlands	57,061	74,102	70,949
Other countries	560	1,488	22,140
Total	138,119	164,987	241,972
Total value	$53,314	$63,685	$93,401

TABLE XXVIII.—*Importation of game into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	51,216	66,256	80,173
England	11,860	12,928	13,342
Austria	.....	52	16,042
France	12,800	10,248	14,573
Netherlands	86,210	129,805	164,404
Other countries	17,212	35,646	17,198
Total	179,298	254,935	305,732
Total value	$69,209	$98,405	$118,013

MEATS AND MEAT PRODUCTS.

Canned meats.—There is absolutely no demand, although a few cans from Armour's and Libby's packing houses are to be seen in shop windows, where they have been for years. There are no established prices.

Hams.—Considerable numbers of inferior native hams are consumed in the country districts. Hams fit for table use, however, come mostly from England, and sell at a good price, about 30 cents per pound. Few are used.

Bacon.—An inferior quality of unsmoked bacon is sold by butchers. Cured bacon, however, comes in small quantities from England, and is not generally on sale. It sells for 28 cents per pound.

Lard.—The lard sold here is only grease. Prepared lard can not be purchased in Ghent. Statistics of lard importations distinctively do not exist. We can give only those which include all fats. From them (Table XXIX) it is seen that the United States supplies ordinarily about one-half of the entire amount imported. The trade, however, shows a notable decrease during the past few years. The totals also indicate a decreasing demand for the United States product.

TABLE XXIX.—*Importation of fats into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	620,586	661,440	604,347
England	2,409,260	3,419,661	4,958,321
Australia	937,010	129,200	633,942
United States	16,803,951	15,628,291	12,118,852
France	4,069,063	4,802,062	4,651,542
Hamburg	241,877	275,357	562,412
Netherlands	2,333,266	3,782,701	3,375,294
Argentina	853,269	637,686	506,195
Sweden and Norway	129,848	54,290	143,626
Uruguay	630,630	530,995	1,111,630
Other countries	239,124	72,166	430,911
Total	29,267,884	29,993,849	29,097,072
Total value	$3,954,091	$4,052,169	$3,650,228

OLEOMARGARIN.

Oleomargarin is unknown, although there are some native products on the market which resemble it. A large quantity of margarin, however, is imported mostly from Holland. The following table shows the importation of this article for three years, giving the principal sources of supply:

TABLE XXX.—*Importation of margarin into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
United States	.....	57,800	60,142
France	67,374	75,864	56,108
Netherlands	10,842,753	11,627,417	11,742,056
Other countries	10,009	29,705	34,604
Total	10,920,136	11,790,786	11,892,910
Total value	$2,107,586	$2,275,622	$2,295,332

HIDES AND WOOL.

TABLE XXXI.—*Importation of raw hides into Belgium.*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2 20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	3,106,832	1,927,846	2,005,576
England	1,771,208	1,729,229	2,422,188
Brazil	2,465,137	2,244,620	3,886,247
France	6,201,708	6,869,598	6,901,515
Netherlands	3,111,639	4,016,196	4,801,055
Argentina	23,057,021	21,251,464	20,255,687
Uruguay	8,375,568	5,587,180	8,170,201
Other countries	3,043,838	2,569,740	3,723,816
Total	51,132,951	46,195,873	52,166,285
Total value	$11,052,899	$9,807,384	$10,068,093

TABLE XXXII.—*Importation of wool into Belgium.*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	1,815,115	907,468	1,091,071
England	9,376,684	6,096,424	10,917,237
Australia	9,861,913	7,418,390	10,083,176
France	8,271,499	7,483,689	10,016,482
Argentina	10,341,066	8,331,742	11,080,984
Other countries	2,496,335	2,528,450	1,693,607
Total	42,162,612	32,766,163	44,882,557
Total value	$14,240,422	$11,066,772	$13,859,734

COTTON AND OTHER FIBERS.

Raw cotton.—Belgium is one of the principal countries for the manufacture of cloths, and it consumes enormous quantities of raw cotton. About 150,000 bales are annually consumed, all of which must be imported. The principal sources of supply are the United States, the British East Indies, and Egypt.

Prices naturally vary. Considering the quantity of goods delivered and other circumstances, countries alternate in having the advantage. American cotton growers could always control this market if they would only strictly fulfill their contracts. This is the chief fault found. American merchants are said to be very apt to supply a quality inferior to that specified in the order. Several cotton agents here suggest that stricter laws should be passed in our States against fraudulent cotton transactions.

Ghent is a large market for cotton, by reason of its many spinning and weaving establishments. The facility of transport is a great advantage. Vessels may enter immediately to the docks. Every year several cargos come direct to Ghent houses from Wilmington, Savannah, Galveston, and other Southern ports.

The ordinary terms of sale are 6 to 8 cents per pound, Antwerp draft at 90 days. Freights are very variable. The annexed statistics (Table XXXIII) show British India to be the chief country of supply for the Belgian cotton mills. The United States stand second. The figures are, however, unsatisfactory, as countries like England and France—nonproducing cotton countries—appear to furnish such a large quantity. They evidently act only as intermediaries, obtaining the merchandise elsewhere. There is, however, no way of tracing it. Without doubt a considerable amount also comes by these channels, both from the East Indies and from the United States. It is, therefore, impossible to fix relatively the importance of their respective actual supplies.

TABLE XXXIII.—*Importation of cotton into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
England	8,430,947	3,384,203	6,563,260
Egypt	234,256	509,801	93,357
United States	7,340,537	5,303,500	9,434,926
France	2,429,733	1,872,082	3,415,697
British India	14,206,271	8,936,657	14,905,253
Netherlands	935,964	139,760	398,252
Other countries	691,551	369,035	589,845
Total	34,269,259	20,506,038	35,400,590
Total value	$7,200,512	$4,315,477	$6,832,314

Other products of cotton.—I have been unable to obtain any information concerning cotton-seed oil, oil cake, cottolene, etc. I therefore surmise that these products are unknown to the people of this region.

The chief oil seeds which are upon this market are flax, colza, and rape seed. The first mentioned is produced in Flanders, while large quantities of the others come from the East Indies. Colza-oil cakes and flaxseed cakes are in recent years being extensively used.

The importation of oil cakes is quite important; of the amount furnished from abroad the United States have recently sent the largest quota. Our chief competitors are France, Russia, and Germany.

TABLE XXXIV.—*Importation of oil cake into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	5,027,576	2,618,818	3,162,889
England	1,430,642	1,457,653	1,894,455
United States	20,709,049	30,158,121	18,238,552
France	20,667,532	18,433,454	12,731,691
British India	1,739,090	1,961,424	1,072,705
Netherlands	1,112,745	795,550	1,504,712
Russia	6,174,284	6,620,483	4,573,566
Other countries	3,544,932	3,026,735	1,591,708
Total	60,405,850	65,072,238	44,770,278
Total value	$1,748,749	$2,009,430	$1,468,913

TABLE XXXV.—*Importation of hemp into Belgium.*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	2,317,085	2,108,184	1,507,546
England	2,661,712	2,709,490	2,110,938
British India	1,513,167	1,899,696	1,598,601
Italy	1,021,971	1,349,275	1,561,433
Russia	1,571,081	973,137	911,514
Other countries	1,214,862	2,196,448	1,324,960
Total	10,299,878	11,236,230	9,014,992
Total value	$1,908,361	$1,301,155	$1,043,936

TABLE XXXVI.—*Textile materials not elsewhere specified imported into Belgium.*

[Value of franc, $0.193 each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Algeria	722,260	723,767	1,304,350
England	562,304	658,235	676,355
Brazil	103,000	93,100	40,705
United States	1,237,643	903,395	743,205
France	162,340	93,627	61,195
Hamburg	191,786	164,225	428,511
British India	98,900	378,800	363,600
Other countries	215,270	311,988	403,045
Total value in francs	3,293,503	3,326,237	4,020,966
Total value in dollars	635,646	641,964	776,046

SUGAR.

TABLE XXXVII.—*Importation of raw sugar into Belgium.*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
England	2,628,926	2,710,013	3,611,010
Cuba and Porto Rico	224,290	824,786	183,982
Egypt	2,411,371	5,692,154	4,652,072
France	644,758	441,423	135,068
Dutch East Indies	4,259,499	415,873	1,399,868
Netherlands	2,478,789	2,673,043	980,432
Other countries	71,135	177,471	7,651
Total	12,718,768	12,934,763	10,970,083
Total value	$932,794	$998,564	$931,579

TABLE XXXVIII.—*Importation of refined sugar into Belgium.*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	60,391	703,360	540,968
England	127,144	123,376	97,843
France	185,950	205,171	161,809
Netherlands	18,811	19,906	21,357
Other countries	18,123	17,138	8,888
Total	410,419	1,068,951	830,865
Total value	$38,021	$99,028	$81,782

TOBACCO.

Unmanufactured and manufactured.—It should be noted that the cultivation of tobacco is being introduced into Belgium. In 1893 there were in East Flanders 12,830,214 plants under cultivation, being 10,805 plants per acre. The number of plants is increasing annually. Ghent is an important center for the manufacture of tobacco. The chief tobaccos upon the Ghent market are of native growth; most of it, however, employed in Belgium comes from the United States in an unmanufactured form and is manufactured in the country. Pipes are more commonly smoked in Belgium than cigars. There is also considerable demand for chewing and snuff tobacco.

The different American tobaccos known here are the Kentucky, Virginia, Derby, and Richmond. Those of other origin are designated as Turk, Java, Esmeralda, Manila, Habana, Yara, Brazilian, and Hungarian.

Without the duty imported tobacco is generally cheaper than the native product; especially is this fact true of smoking tobacco. The production of tobacco in Belgium for 1894 was of medium quantity.

The statistics of importation given in Tables XXXIX and XL show the United States to be the chief country of supply; indeed, we usually

furnish more than half the total amount purchased abroad. Holland is our only considerable competitor. For the other countries mentioned the trade appears to be very variable. When we examine the importations of cigars (Table XL), however, we may be surprised to find the United States in such an inferior position. Probably the reason is that our cigars are too expensive for the masses in Belgium. The labor necessary for their manufacture is cheaper elsewhere, and for that reason France, Algeria, Holland, and Germany are able to outsell us. The most remarkable feature of the statistics of imports of cigars is the rapid growth of the Algerian trade. Exporting nothing five years ago, it now threatens to soon take first place.

TABLE XXXIX.—*Importation of leaf tobacco into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	285, 168	300, 332	321, 878
England	118, 718	103, 189	184, 062
Bremen	280, 661	374, 717	543, 697
United States	5, 473, 166	5, 113, 941	4, 205, 471
France	624, 793	465, 991	358, 535
Netherlands	1, 969, 833	1, 978, 795	2, 371, 795
Other countries	303, 354	378, 325	492, 553
Total	9, 055, 693	8, 715, 290	8, 477, 991
Total value	$1, 922, 524	$2, 018, 461	$1, 963, 503

TABLE XL.—*Importation of cigars into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Algeria	785	14, 120	18, 688
Germany	10, 053	11, 284	10, 299
England	4, 563	5, 160	5, 612
United States	8, 347	8, 634	10, 220
France	25, 255	25, 330	30, 646
Netherlands	13, 052	15, 456	15, 892
Other countries	6, 507	3, 594	4, 175
Total	68, 562	83, 578	95, 532
Total value	$330, 812	$403, 264	$460, 942

TABLE XLI.—*Importation of tobacco, manufactured, other than cigars, into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	2, 212	2, 390	2, 270
England	12, 667	4, 458	11, 174
United States	96, 296	90, 879	73, 209
France	5, 341	4, 926	4, 531
Netherlands	13, 873	18, 463	12, 836
Other countries	2, 961	4, 735	4, 533
Total	133, 350	125, 851	108, 553
Total value	$51, 473	$48, 578	$41, 901

FRUITS.

The demand for fruit is not large. Belgium even exports some of its native product, which, as we have already stated, amounts to about $9,000,000 annually. American fruits do not come to Ghent, except perhaps in very small quantities by the intermediary of Antwerp agents. The total importation of fruit of all kinds into Belgium in 1893 was valued at $1,375,135; including fresh fruits, $375,711; dried fruits, $868,219, and almonds, $131,205. Other nuts are imported, but are included under the denomination of fresh or dried fruits, according to their character. Of the total amount the United States supply is only $26,708 worth, being entirely included under the title of miscellaneous dried fruits. Even in this item there was a large decrease as compared with former years. The chief countries shipping fruit to Belgium in 1893 were England, France, and Holland. Portugal, Spain, Greece, and Italy were the only other countries sending any considerable amount.

Fresh fruits.—When we consider the trade in fresh fruits separately, we find the only items classified apart in the statistics of imports are: First, citrons, lemons, and oranges; second, apples, and third, grapes. Examining Table XLII, it is to be noted that Spain is now supplying the largest proportion of citrons, oranges, and lemons. Turning to Table XLIII, it will be observed that the importation of grapes is insignificant. France is practically the only country of supply. For apples (Table XLIV) the same fact is found to be true. France sends more than one-half of all. Holland had until recently a monopoly of this trade, but seems to have lost it. Small shipments have been made from the United States occasionally, but are scarcely worthy of mention. In these three items, however—oranges, grapes, and apples—the United States should be able to compete. We can certainly undersell all competitors in price. With a proper introduction a trade could without doubt be established. Of all the other fresh fruits included under the title "miscellaneous" in Table XLV, France supplies the largest share with an increasing trade.

TABLE XLII.—*Importation of citrons, lemons, and oranges into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	29,703	16,699	35,023
England	1,311,066	1,389,558	1,171,247
Spain	1,845,573	3,839,063	2,833,497
France	400,770	583,455	490,714
Netherlands	95,173	12,756	157,558
Other countries	111,886	453,475	450,159
Total	3,794,171	6,295,006	5,138,198
Total value	$146,455	$218,688	$168,584

TABLE XLIII.—*Value of grapes imported into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	2,591	.....	.....
England	.....	541	73
Spain	285	632	40
France	15,898	12,322	24,411
Other countries	800	6,398	5,957
Total value in francs	19,574	19,893	30,481
Total value in dollars	3,778	3,839	5,883

TABLE XLIV.—*Value of fresh apples imported into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	13,947	.....	5,377
England	.....	8,555	.....
United States	.....	7,776	.....
France	117,846	188,972	480,612
Netherlands	273,019	529,063	191,441
Switzerland	89	.....	347
Other countries	11,568	8,997	4,866
Total value in francs	416,469	743,363	682,643
Total value in dollars	80,379	143,469	131,750

TABLE XLV.—*Value of fresh fruit, not elsewhere specified, imported into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	40,774	21,414	14,115
England	29,928	40,048	34,481
France	206,275	190,028	204,383
Netherlands	73,618	102,974	79,398
Other countries	16,167	29,111	27,695
Total value in francs	366,762	383,575	360,072
Total value in dollars	70,785	74,030	69,494

Dried fruits.—Raisins, figs, and prunes are the principal dried fruits imported into this country. The demand for raisins, indeed, amounts to a quarter of the entire fruit trade (Table XLI). Greece and Holland are the principal sources of supply, the latter country naturally as a country of transit for other southern lands. Of the fig trade Portugal has a monopoly. It is, however, on the decline (Table XLVII). France, Austria, and Germany are competitors in their exports of prunes to Belgium. The demand, however, is also decreasing (Table XLVIII). The only classification of fruit in which the name of the United States appears is "Miscellaneous dried fruits" (Table XLIX). There we have a fair chance to succeed. In 1892, for example, we were the principal country from which Belgium purchased this class of goods. In 1893 we were, however, outdistanced by England, France, and Italy, all most vigorous competitors. The total importation of this class of merchandise is also decreasing.

TABLE XLVI.—*Importation of raisins into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
England	229,590	194,148	200,359
Spain	127,121	135,273	105,048
France	56,704	50,262	50,493
Greece	827,324	968,263	1,301,198
Netherlands	839,576	735,338	783,645
Turkey	121,039	275,816	286,406
Other countries	118,715	195,174	177,105
Total	2,320,069	2,554,274	2,904,254
Total value	$358,219	$369,731	$392,365

TABLE XLVII.—*Importation of figs into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
England	223,960	171,599	100,924
Spain	139,933	314,409	154,131
France	110,802	169,466	183,076
Italy	301,638	694,752	398,458
Portugal	1,507,954	1,854,820	1,726,662
Other countries	244,349	202,994	215,672
Total	2,528,636	3,408,040	2,778,923
Total value	$195,211	$197,326	$160,900

TABLE XLVIII.—*Importation of prunes into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	321,587	347,369	278,829
Austria	265,395	427,532	309,076
France	412,730	348,980	478,181
Netherlands	162,466	113,173	90,531
Other countries	130,100	97,397	66,162
Total	1,292,278	1,334,451	1,222,779
Total value	$137,175	$154,530	$136,878

TABLE XLIX.—*Value of dried fruits, not elsewhere specified, imported into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
England	325,466	210,146	216,161
United States	227,558	396,486	138,383
France	213,885	167,648	188,595
Italy	148,538	189,480	185,090
Other countries	142,453	323,953	194,444
Total value in francs	1,057,900	1,287,713	922,673
Total value in dollars	204,175	248,529	178,076

ALMONDS.

As previously mentioned, almonds are the only nuts given special mention in the tabulated statistics of imports. For them Portugal and France are the chief sources of supply (Table L).

TABLE L.—*Importation of almonds into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
England	42, 608	13, 036	16, 798
France	160, 520	166, 898	148, 288
Portugal	90, 001	90, 513	149, 888
Other countries	49, 872	78, 355	97, 038
Total	343, 001	348, 802	412, 012
Total value	$132, 398	$134, 638	$131, 205

CANNED GOODS, ETC.

The sale of canned goods to Belgium has suffered a decrease during the past three years. Values, however, show even a more marked decline than quantities. It is surprising that, with its great fruit canning industries, the United States does not appear in these statistics (Table LI). England is the chief country for this trade. Without doubt a certain quantity of American canned fruits comes into Belgium via London. It is a fact that a few stores in the four largest cities of this country keep a small number of cans of California and Maryland fruit in stock. The sales, however, are so rare that they scarcely know what prices to ask a prospective purchaser. In the country districts such canned fruits are unknown. Generally the prices asked are too high to attract purchasers. The poorer classes would never be able to indulge in such luxuries. Even to induce the more affluent to buy the prices must be very much reduced and the goods rendered popular by proper advertising. At present there are too many intermediaries who make profits. Sales must be more direct.

TABLE LI.—*Importation of canned goods (pastry, fruit, vegetables, etc.) into Belgium.*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	24, 922	35, 266	27, 187
England	861, 294	763, 042	718, 225
France	168, 450	157, 554	171, 946
Italy	17, 792	24, 673	11, 189
Netherlands	20, 093	16, 696	13, 052
Other countries	14, 309	12, 143	19, 408
Total	1, 106, 860	1, 009, 374	961, 007
Total value	$384, 523	$350, 656	$333, 854

LIQUORS.

Wines.—The consumption of wines is large, but comparatively small when measured by that of beer and gin. Scarcely any wine is of Belgian production. Almost the entire supply comes from France and the Rhenish provinces of Germany. There are so many different marks and labels that it is practically impossible to give any idea of price. A fair grade of red wine can be purchased at retail for 50 cents the quart bottle. From that limit prices mount indefinitely. White wine can even be obtained at 30 cents the bottle.

A California house last summer sent a box of wines to Ghent for distribution. Many connoisseurs who tasted these samples pronounced them superior for the price to anything on this market. It was impossible, however, to secure any wine dealer to introduce them. There would without doubt be a demand for these articles if we could only find some important merchant willing to push them, and in a short time other houses would be compelled to keep them in stock.

The statistics given in Tables LII and LIII indicate that the total value of the wines imported into Belgium in 1893 amounted to $4,288,023, a sum slightly lower than that of previous years. Of this total, France furnished 80 per cent, having no formidable competitor. The figures for the United States were insignificant, being only $900. About 90 per cent of the wine is imported in casks.

TABLE LII.—*Importation of wine (in casks) into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in hectoliters of 26.417 gallons each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Algeria	1,724.43	2,164.85	1,544.71
Germany	9,505.22	9,977.39	9,675.60
England	7,331.36	6,219.22	7,688.38
Austria	1,625.15	667.97	804.91
Spain	5,386.98	7,128.67	7,905.67
France	195,002.80	178,694.51	150,723.89
Italy	2,876.21	5,701.68	6,042.03
Netherlands	2,832.56	3,216.31	3,372.48
Portugal	1,214.74	1,762.91	1,455.23
Other countries	1,023.76	1,204.72	1,386.18
Total	228,523.21	216,738.23	190,599.08
Total value	$3,969,448	$3,704,743	$2,942,850

TABLE LIII.—*Importation of bottled wines into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in hectoliters of 26.417 gallons each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	1,771.51	1,781.35	1,942.91
England	154.59	225.57	181.77
France	19,200.19	18,653.53	17,388.30
Netherlands	209.07	195.87	197.68
Other countries	220.53	160.48	203.08
Total	21,555.89	21,016.80	19,913.74
Total value	$1,497,703	$1,460,247	$1,345,173

Brandy and other distilled liquors.—The greater part of the distilled liquors consumed in Belgium is of native origin. It amounts to 14,620,726 gallons annually, while the average annual imports are about 400,000 gallons. The annual average consumption per inhabitant is a trifle more than 2⅓ gallons. Inasmuch as the Government receives a considerable revenue from the tax levied upon the manufacture of brandy it makes strenuous efforts to exclude foreign products. In 1893 the number of distilleries in Belgium was 250, of which 214 were agricultural and 36 nonagricultural. The excise tax received from them in the same year amounted to $7,205,390.40.

Prices vary considerably. Good native brandy may be purchased at $1 per quart bottle retail. A fair quality sells even at 50 cents. The high rate of duty assessed upon foreign brandies naturally augments their prices to a more considerable figure. The 412,898 gallons of brandy imported in 1893 were valued at $224,591, of which France furnished a quantity amounting to about three-fifths of the total. Holland and England are the only other countries engaged in this trade worthy of mention. Almost the entire quantity of brandy enters the country in casks. The amount imported in bottles is small.

Further details are given in the statistics following (Tables LIV and LV):

TABLE LIV.—*Importation of brandy and other distilled liquors (in bottles) into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in hectoliters of 26.417 gallons each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	12.82	13.79	36.29
England	13.03	14.48	23.49
France	174.07	171.29	351.76
Netherlands	17.90	23.01	188.48
Other countries	8.89	8.72	28.70
Total	226.71	231.29	628.72
Total value	$10,939	$12,276	$36,403

TABLE LV.—*Importation of brandy and other distilled liquors (in casks) into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in hectoliters (at 50°) of 26.417 gallons each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	111.71	116.78	151.04
England	1,742.90	1,627.16	1,569.36
France	10,063.73	9,853.32	9,265.84
Netherlands	3,198.04	3,225.32	3,495.62
Other countries	235.19	542.39	519.18
Total	15,351.57	15,364.97	15,001.04
Total value	$189,623	$189,788	$188,188

Beer.—Beer is the national drink of this country. The number of breweries in 1893 was 2,875. During the same year there were brewed 300,713,693 gallons of beer. The total of beers imported was only 1,822,759 gallons. The breweries almost always supply the local trade of the communities in which they are situated. There are scarcely any large establishments which sell their product in all parts of the country. Tastes are so fixed that I have been told by brewers they fear to change the slightest ingredient of their product or their process, because the consumers may fail to recognize the brand or be angry that the brewers have ceased to consult their palates. Hence every brewer continues to supply certain patrons, and it is very rare that a restaurant, for example, will change its brand of beer, being fearful of losing its customers. This fact renders the introduction of foreign beers difficult. Practically the only beers from abroad (and these in very small proportion) are English stout, pale ale, and some Munich beer. Then, again, the prices here defy competition. A quart bottle of average beer, such as is drunk by well-to-do citizens, sells for 6 cents. Extra good quality brings 12 cents per bottle, while the cheapest grades, in casks, can be had for about 1 to 2 cents per quart. Statistics (Tables LVI and LVII) indicate that the total imports of beer are valued at $466,522. Germany supplies the most, approximating one-half of the total imports, and England is second, supplying about one-third of the total. Bottled beers are rarely imported.

TABLE LVI.—*Importation of beer (in casks) into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in hectoliters of 26.417 gallons each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	27,257.00	29,087.09	35,469.19
England	20,940.33	22,064.83	22,270.08
Luxemburg	959.38	1,848.84	2,897.96
Netherlands	2,116.53	3,155.58	7,316.25
Other countries	605.67	499.28	489.12
Total	51,878.91	56,655.62	68,442.60
Total value	$360,455	$382,709	$462,330

TABLE LVII.—*Importation of beer (in bottles) into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in hectoliters of 26.417 gallons each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	183.63	235.64	181.91
Luxemburg	144.10	133.24	99.78
Hamburg	88.36	.....	.....
Netherlands	120.90	108.29	111.24
Sweden and Norway	86.97	100.98	67.19
Other countries	65.78	97.96	96.76
Total	689.74	676.11	556.88
Total value	$5,325	$5,089	$4,192

Cider.—Little information is to be obtained relative to cider. A small quantity is manufactured in the country. Its use, however, is almost unknown.

SEEDS AND FORAGE.

Very meager details can be given concerning this subject, for want of statistics. The production of the country, however, does not equal the demand, for there is annually a considerable importation—sometimes from one country, sometimes from another. The chief seed in demand is flaxseed. There is a special demand for it at present, as the crop of 1894 was bad. Generally, American seeds are cheaper for the same quality than those of other countries, but even the inducement of lower prices does not offset the disadvantage of their extremely poor grade. Sometimes they can not be employed at any price. Their reputation also is particularly bad, as unscrupulous merchants have the habit of purchasing them for mixing with and deteriorating other and better qualities. In order to increase their trade, or even to retain it, Americans must send better seeds, even if they ask a slightly advanced price.

The official statistics published by the Belgian Government divide seeds into only two classes, first, oleaginous, and second, other seeds. It appears from the figures given in Tables LVIII and LIX that the total value of seeds imported in 1893, not including peanuts and palm nuts, was $14,003,069, of which $11,835,849 was for oleaginous seeds and only $2,167,220 for all others. Of the entire amount imported, East India sent more than half, valued at about $8,000,000. Russia, Argentina, and the United States are the other important shippers. The East Indian trade, however, has developed to such proportions that it will probably maintain its supremacy for several years at least. Russia shows great loss as compared with a few years ago, while Argentina has vastly increased its importance. The United States has not been able to maintain the favorable position which it attained in 1892. Several other countries, such as England and Roumania, threaten to appropriate our trade.

TABLE LVIII.—*Importation of oleaginous seeds (not including peanuts and palm nuts) into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
England	1,129,915	5,372,301	8 485,724
United States	20,512,406	28,193,895	10 612,854
France	6,421,665	8,939,425	4,881,791
British India	103,713,323	64,088,322	135,613,476
Netherlands	1,010,337	661,340	1,241,402
Argentina	5,830,949	5,066,380	12,123,744
Roumania	22,671,004	12,218,882	7,455,256
Russia	38,317,673	20,019,946	28,729,157
Other countries	2,946,910	8,500,376	9,876,746
Total	202,554,182	153,060,867	219,020,150
Total value	$11,727 887	$7,976,002	$11,835,849

TABLE LIX.—*Importation of all other seeds not elsewhere specified into Belgium (entered for consumption).*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	1 668.540	1,155,646	2,141,017
England	1,757,792	895,861	3,545,653
United States	1,544.594	1,606,453	1,673,672
France	3.221.487	2,917 861	2,188,108
British India	8,587.594	1,667,430	3,708,873
Netherlands	1 085.788	1,254,692	1,191,529
Roumania	4,329,425	747.163	1,275,970
Turkey	647.787	676,359	1,274.940
Other countries	6,357,044	1,835.038	1,715.434
Total	29,200.051	12,756,503	18,715.196
Total value	$3,381,366	$1,477,203	$2,167.220

TABLE LX.—*Importation of hay and fodder into Belgium.*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	108.159	718.952	780.593
England	224.566	132,187	3,095,562
United States	146,470	.....	1,759,417
France	38,564,136	30,462,218	18,232,394
Luxemburg	139,614	164.851	.....
Netherlands	49.848,483	44,707,918	41,560,488
Other countries	195,712	1,192.769	2,860,881
Total	89,227,140	77,378,895	68,289,335
Total value	$929,925	$1,045,389	$1,317,984

PETROLEUM.

TABLE LXI.—*Importation of refined petroleum into Belgium.*

[Quantities in kilograms of 2.20462 pounds each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
England	130,508	43,235	37,008
United States	74,881,119	97,769,750	109,355,900
Netherlands	3,521,807	3,437	2,789,239
Russia	28,244,821	43,108,068	32,890,973
Other countries	22,662	17.757	65,494
Total	106,800,917	140,942.247	145.138,614
Total value	$3,504,138	$3,808,260	$3,921,645

TIMBER.

TABLE LXII.—*Importation of oak and walnut timber (not sawed) into Belgium.*

[Quantities in steres of 1.308 cubic yards each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	4,392	4,858	6,200
United States	1,097	4,054	2,038
France	12,132	14,508	12.141
Netherlands	1,997	1.139	917
Other countries	2,555	6,855	6,751
Total	22,173	31.414	28,047
Total value	$641.908	$848.806	$757.830

TIMBER—Continued.

TABLE LXIII.—*Importation of hewn oak and walnut timber into Belgium.*

[Quantities in steres of 1.308 cubic yards each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	159	126	1,391
England	131	.....	145
Unit d States	483	274	298
France	665	379	436
Other countries	349	77	163
Total	1,787	856	2,433
Total value	$58,631	$26,433	$75,131

LXIV.—*Importation of oak and walnut timber (sawed) into Belgium.*

[Quantities in steres of 1.308 cubic yards each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	25,459	16,906	25,302
England	1,409	1,952	.....
Austria	2,572	3,832	4,113
United States	373	720	2,416
France	20,500	13,658	10,163
Netherlands	1,193	705	3,703
Russia	4,693	4,447	13,864
Other countries	1,730	1,109	2,706
Total	57,929	43,329	62,267
Total value	$2,180,158	$1,547,062	$2,223,243

LXV.—*Importation of other timber (not sawed) into Belgium.*

[Quantities in steres of 1.308 cubic yards each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	5,504	6,829	8,838
United States	4,501	5,018	3,496
France	13,013	14,362	13,004
Netherlands	18,941	14,792	10,269
Russia	17,661	25,150	22,592
Sweden and Norway	5,610	5,834	5,189
Other countries	1,594	1,291	2,152
Total	66,824	73,276	65,540
Total value	$709,337	$735,398	$657,759

LXVI.—*Importation of other timber (sawed) into Belgium.*

[Quantities in steres of 1.308 cubic yards each.]

Country.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Germany	6,302	3,824	3,190
England	2,137	2,492	1,504
United States	17,966	20,234	25,850
France	5,572	3,517	2,754
Netherlands	17,557	14,151	11,654
Russia	110,362	136,019	136,531
Sweden and Norway	336,240	342,025	415,268
Other countries	1,342	1,237	1,397
Total	497,478	523,499	598,148
Total value	$8,161,127	$8,183,860	$9,350,848

GENERAL STATE OF OUR TRADE.

The information herein given is lacking in many details. These gaps I should have liked to fill up. Indeed, the delay in making this report is largely attributable to waiting for replies which have never come to hand. However, after reading the copy a second time it seems to me that it probably conveys a summary idea of the state of demand and supply in this vicinity for the products herein mentioned. The chief items of our export trade to Belgium at present, it will be seen, are cereals and flour, meats, fats, cotton, kerosene, and tobacco. Probably the articles in which we might more advantageously increase our sales are hams, wines, and fruits. All the other articles we could possibly introduce, but only against strong competition, or perhaps even in some instances where there was not any competition we should be obliged to create a demand, as, for example, for oatmeal, corn meal, and the various compound cooking fats.

The result of my investigation is not in general very satisfactory. It appears that our trade with Belgium is decreasing not only in the total but in almost all the classes of products mentioned in this report. One meager consolation exists—that many of our goods come to this country via England in the statistics credited to the trade of that country. Even this fact is disastrous to us, as we lose the credit for all these supplies and are at the mercy of our rivals, who fix such prices as they please. In order to insure a steady trade we must do it direct and be independent of middlemen; only in this manner can we establish the reputation of our products and cause a demand for them by showing them equal in quality to those of any other country and generally less in price.

HOW TO INTRODUCE AMERICAN GOODS.

The most serious question arises when we reach the discussion of a mode of procedure. How can a demand for American products be created in a foreign country? Or, indeed, without even presupposing the existence of a demand, how can our goods be sold abroad? In some countries more nearly related to us by habit and tradition this problem is more easily solved. Some people are not afraid of novelties, while the thought of a change is repugnant to others. We must first disabuse our minds of any predisposition which we may entertain that our productions are wanted and are necessary to human existence. Then we must ascertain the point of view of our proposed purchaser. We must not think, much less call, a man deficient in knowledge because he has never tasted oatmeal or corn meal and has not any word in his own language to express the idea. We must ask ourselves rather how we should like to eat snails every morning for breakfast, or whether we should have any adequate idea of what "bouilleabaisse" was had we

never heard the name. We must also remember that to the people on this side of the ocean the distance from New York to Chicago seems as great as from New York to London is to us. Then we, too, when we purchase abroad, have great misgivings as to the success of our enterprise. These people also have naturally the right to doubt the integrity of the Americans with whom they deal. And, alas, too often for the fair name of our countrymen, the houses engaged in foreign trade are prone to deviate from the course of strict honesty and truth. Very frequently when a European is cheated at such long range he never risks a second chance; hence one less customer for our exports.

But suppose all such scruples vanish and we have a Belgian who wishes to deal in our goods. If we expect to make a customer of him we must handle him very gently. We must be ready in a great measure to accept the terms prevailing in this country. If we do not he becomes suspicious and finally refuses to trade at all. For instance, except for some well-known articles, an absolute sale for cash is almost impossible. We must be ready to give long terms of payment, or rather to establish the prospective purchaser as our agent. Many American houses are not ready to do business on these terms, but until they are they should never seek trade in Belgium. The Belgian is as firm as a rock in his methods of trade, and is not any more easily moved.

AMERICANS FOR AGENTS.

The establishment of an American as agent would be the most satisfactory method to obtain trade. Such an agent, however, would be obliged to have the authority of his American employers to negotiate and close all bargains, and should have stock sufficient to fill all small orders at once. He should also be disposed to give ample facility for the correction of all errors which might arise.

Such an agent should not be confined to any one branch, but should rather represent several lines of goods which do not in any way compete with each other. The expense, too, would thus be lightened to his employers. For instance, suppose a syndicate formed of eight persons, dealing in oatmeal, flour, canned meats, hams, cotton, tobacco, fruits, and liquors, should send to Ghent an agent to represent them. He might be paid a salary (to include all his expenses) of $2,400 per annum, which would be $300 per firm, and a small percentage on sales. If he should come here and open a store in the principal business street and advertise his articles so as to attract the attention of the public, there is not any doubt that by honest dealing he could create a demand for American goods. At the end of two or three years he could then establish native merchants in these respective lines and remove to commence again in some other city.

This idea is submitted for such consideration as it may be worth.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

In closing, mention must be made of the various persons to whom I wish by this means to render thanks for the information which they have freely and cheerfully given me concerning their respective branches of business.

This notice is not, however, to be construed in any way as a recommendation.

My authorities are Messrs. H. Bouquet, cattle dealer; H. De Smet, horse merchant; R. De Coninch, director of the Ghent slaughterhouse; A. Brasseur-De Crom and J. Van den Abeele, grain and flour merchants; E. Parim, of Antwerp; E. Bracq, miller; E. Anseele, superintendent of the Vooruit; G. De Smet-De Nacyer, director of the Volksbelang; Delmotte Brothers, starch manufacturers; E. De Winne-Macs and Fr. Soctaert, grocers; G. Zeyen, cotton broker; Ed. Lippens-Luck, tobacco manufacturer; Joseph Macs and L. Hye, wine dealers, all of Ghent except where otherwise mentioned.

NOTE ON THE METRIC SYSTEM.

The following is mostly compiled from publications of the Coast and Geodetic Survey of the United States.

The Constitution of the United States provides that Congress "shall fix the standard of weights and measures." The customary weights and measures of the country are derived from those which were lawful during colonial times, and are almost entirely of English origin. Much interest was shown on the subject in the early days of the Republic by the most eminent men of that time, especially by Washington and Jefferson, who recommended action by Congress in that direction. Up to 1828 there had been no legislation on the subject, but an act was passed that year that a certain piece of brass, now known as the troy pound, should constitute the standard by means of which the coinage of the United States should be regulated. In 1836 an act was passed which provided that a full set or copy of the standards of weights and measures, as provided by the Treasury Department for the use of the customs service, should be prepared in the office of the Superintendent of Weights and Measures and delivered to the governor of each State in the Union. This was done, and went far toward procuring uniformity in the standards. The primary yard and pound adopted by the Executive Departments of the Government soon became practically the standards of the whole country.

The metric system is based on the ten-millionth part of a quadrant of a meridian circle measured by calculation from the north pole to the equator, as explained by a diagram of the system printed on the back of this report. The superior character of this system, both for its simplicity and scientific precision, was recognized at an early day by those who were interested in the subject of weights and measures in this country, and, after much agitation on the subject, Congress, in July, 1866, passed the important act by which the metric system of weights and measures is authorized and made lawful throughout the United States; and about the same time, to further the practical use of this system, Congress passed a joint resolution authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to distribute to each State of the Union a set of metric standards of weights and measures, which was done.

The metric system of weights and measures, standards for which have been constructed in accordance with the highest requirements of metrological science, has received the approval of the civilized world, and Congress has for many years authorized and sustained the participation on the part of the United States Government in all the operations which the International Bureau of Weights and Measures advocated.

Our present system of weights and measures has for its sole recommendation that it has been in common use for many years. It is irrational in theory, irksome in practice, and has been condemned by all who have had practice in the use of weights and measures. Furthermore, it has never been authorized or made lawful by act of Congress, and is almost without authorization in the history of Congressional legislation.

METRIC

SYSTEM.

ELEMENTS OF THE SYSTEM.

Length.	Surface.	Capacity.	Weight.	Notation.
			Metric ton.	1,000,000
			Quintal.	100,000
Myriameter.			Myriagram.	10,000
Kilometer.		Kiloliter.	Kilogram.	1,000
Hectometer.	Hectare.	Hectoliter.	Hectogram.	100
Decameter.	Decare.	Decaliter.	Decagram.	10
METER.	ARE.	LITER.	GRAM.	1
Decimeter.		Deciliter.	Decigram.	0.1
Centimeter.	Centiare.	Centiliter.	Centigram.	0.01
Millimeter.		Milliliter.	Milligram.	0.001

EQUIVALENTS OF CUSTOMARY AND METRIC WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

1 kilometer	=	0.62137 mile.	1 mile	=	1.60935 kilometers.
1 meter	=	3.28083 feet.	1 yard	=	0.914402 meter.
1 centimeter	=	0.3937 inch.	1 foot	=	0.304801 meter.
1 hectare	=	2.471 acres.	1 inch	=	25.4001 millimeters.
1 are	=	119.6 square yards.	1 square mile	=	2.59 square kilometers.
1 metric ton	=	2,204.62 pounds.	1 acre	=	0.4047 hectare.
1 kilogram	=	2.20462 pounds.	1 square foot	=	9.29 square decimeters.
1 gram	=	15.43236 grains.	1 pound	=	0.45359 kilogram.
1 hectoliter	=	2.8377 bushels.	1 grain	=	64.7989 milligrams.
1 hectoliter	=	26.417 gallons.	1 bushel	=	0.35239 hectoliter.
1 liter	=	1.0567 quarts.	1 gallon	=	3.78543 liters.
1 stere	=	1.308 cubic yards.	1 cubic foot	=	0.02832 cubic meter.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND BRITISH MEASURES.

1 Imperial bushel equals 2,218.192 cubic inches.
1 Winchester bushel (used in United States) equals 2,150.42 cubic inches.
1 Imperial gallon equals 277.274 cubic inches.
1 wine gallon (as used in United States) equals 231 cubic inches.

RULES.

1. To reduce Imperial bushels to Winchester bushels, multiply the number of Imperial bushels by 1.03152.
2. To reduce Winchester bushels to Imperial bushels, multiply the number of Winchester bushels by 0.969447.
3. To reduce Imperial gallons to United States wine gallons, multiply the number of Imperial gallons by 1.20032.
4. To reduce United States wine gallons to Imperial gallons, multiply the number of wine gallons by 0.833111.